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BLAST CASES

NIA searches 40 locations in T.N., Kerala, Karnataka

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BATTLE OF BALLOTS

Tripura goes to the polls today

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SHOCK MOVE

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon resigns

WORLD » PAGE 13

Expedite work on increasing pension, govt. tells EPFO

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

As the deadline set by the Supreme Court for submitting joint options of employees and employers to claim higher Provident Fund pension ends on March 4, the Union Labour Ministry has directed the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to expedite the process so that those who want to claim higher pension based on higher salary can make use of the option.

The Ministry, in a letter last week, asked the EPFO to spell out the process for submitting joint options for those who retired after September 1, 2014 and subscribers of the Employees' Pension Scheme who are currently working. A circular may be issued this week, an official said.

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Eye on China, Cabinet clears 7 ITBP battalions

Over 9,000 personnel to be recruited for deployment in Arunachal Pradesh; ₹4,800 cr. sanctioned under the Vibrant Villages Programme to stop migration and boost tourism in border villages

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

With a view to bolstering the social and security framework along the China border, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved raising of seven new battalions of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and allocated ₹4,800 crore under the Vibrant Villages Programme to stop migration and boost tourism in villages along the border.

The Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the proposal for raising the new ITBP battalions during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This would entail recruitment of 9,400 personnel for deployment in Arunachal Pradesh, where 47 new border outposts and 12 staging camps are under construction. The outposts were sanctioned in January 2020. In all, there are 176 ITBP outposts along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control.

Adding muscle: The strength of the ITBP will increase to 97,000, making it the fourth largest Central Armed Police Force. PTI

A sector headquarters for the ITBP was also announced. Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the decision was taken keeping an eye on the need for effective monitoring in the border areas and that the battalions and the sector headquarters would be raised by 2025-26.

"Under this, ₹1,808.15 crore non-recurring expenditure has been approved for construction of official and residential buildings, land acquisition, arms and ammunition. A recurring expenditure of ₹963.68 crore per year for the salary and ration of personnel has been approved," Mr. Thakur said.

With this, the strength of the ITBP will increase to 97,000 from the current 88,000.

Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a stand-off at several locations in eastern Ladakh since April-May 2020.

The Cabinet also approved the Vibrant Villages Programme for the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26 with an allocation of ₹4,800 crore for the development of villages on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living there.

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NEARBY

'72% of Pink Line tunnel works completed'

BENGALURU
The BMRCL has completed 72% of tunnel work under phase II of Namma Metro. As part of the Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara line, it is building a 13.9-km tunnel network from Dairy Circle to Nagawara.
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Congress accuses BJP of inflating tender costs

BENGALURU
Congress leaders accused the State government of inflating tender costs and finalising them in a tearing hurry before the code of conduct kicks in for Assembly elections to be held in April-May. » Page 6

I-T survey at BBC offices enters second day

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department continued its survey at the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Delhi and Mumbai on Wednesday, on the allegation of "deliberate non-compliance with Indian laws". During the survey, initiated weeks after the BBC released a documentary, *India: the Modi Question*, related to the 2002 Gujarat riots and the situation of minorities in India during Narendra Modi's tenure as Prime Minister, the agency checked BBC's financial transactions and computer records.

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EDITORIAL
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Merchandise exports decline; trade deficit narrows to a year's low

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports fell for the second month in a row in January, with the value of shipments slipping 6.6% to $32.91 billion, while the trade deficit narrowed to the lowest in a year, at just $17.75 billion, following a concurrent dip in imports.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry also sharply revised the goods trade numbers for December 2022, lifting the export figure by $3.6 billion to $38.07 billion, which indicates a year-on-year contraction of just 3% in that month compared with 12.2% estimated earlier. This constitutes the biggest revision in export numbers so far this year, followed by a $3.1 billion upgrade for August and the $2.85 billion change in November.

Imports, which fell 3.6% to $50.66 billion in January, were also revised up by almost $2 billion for December, from $58.2 billion estimated earlier to $60.18 billion. The month's trade deficit was thus revised lower to $22.1 billion.

CONTINUED ON
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

A bid to increase railway presence in freight transportation

84,000 The no: of wagons ordered by the Indian Railways this year, to increase the share of railways in freight transportation from about 27% to 45% by 2030, according to Union minister Darshana Jardosh. She said that the transporter is expected to achieve its highest-ever loading of 1,500 million tonnes this year. PTI

A rise in donations received by national parties: ADR

31.5 The percentage increase in the total donations received by national parties during the financial year 2021-22 from the previous fiscal, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Total donations declared by the national parties for 2021-22 was ₹780.774 crore. The BJP received ₹614 crore as donations while the Congress got ₹95 crore. PTI

Defence Ministry to spend the most on domestic industries

75 The percentage of India's total defence capital outlay to be spent for procurement from domestic defence manufacturers in 2023-24, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The move will mean setting aside around ₹1 lakh crore for procurement from domestic sources out of ₹1,62,600 crore announced in the Union Budget for 2023-24. PTI

Appeal from the UN to aid earthquake survivors of Syria

397 In $ million, the amount the United Nations has appealed for, to help nearly five million survivors of last week's devastating earthquake in rebel-held northwest Syria. The region has received very little assistance because of divisions exacerbated by the country's 12-year war. Since the quake, the UN says 84 trucks have gone through Bab Al-Hawa. PTI

Organ damage persists in long COVID patients even after a year

59 The percentage of long COVID patients found to have organ damage a year after initial symptoms, even in those not severely affected when first diagnosed with the virus, according to a new study published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. It also found that 29% of these patients had multi-organ impairment. PTI

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Taxing windfall profits of oil companies

What are windfall taxes? How are they calculated? What does the government do with the revenue accrued from these taxes? Why are the profits of oil and gas companies rising? What role does the Russia-Ukraine war have? What has the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs said?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On February 3, the Union government hiked the windfall profit tax levied on domestically-produced crude oil as well as on the export of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). Just three days before this, the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs Vivek Johri, told *PTI* that prices of crude were on the rise again and thus, "for the time being windfall tax will continue." He added that it would be difficult to predict for how long the taxation will continue.

Why tax windfall profits?

'Windfall profits' refer to an unanticipated spike in earnings of an entity resulting from an exogenous event (which could be one-off and/or prolonged) and not resulting from a business decision. The B.K. Chaturvedi committee's report on the Financial Position of Oil Companies (2008) had stated that taxing of these windfall gains has been seen as a prerogative of governments, in part to meet fiscal needs and in part to pursue redistributive justice. The central idea here is for sovereigns to capitalise on the lofty profits made by the entities and use it for specific domestic pursuits, for example, spur collections (of taxes) to guard against the consequences of a larger geopolitical event or redistribute them for it to be used for domestic social service schemes, among other reasons. As per the government, the collection of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) for the ongoing financial year is estimated to be ₹25,000 crore from production of crude oil, export of petrol, diesel and ATF. Windfall taxes are reviewed on a fortnightly basis and are subject to factors such as international oil prices, exchange rate and quantity of exports. India had first imposed SAED in July 2022.

What led to windfall gains?

Russia's actions in Ukraine were central to the volatility observed in the oil market in the previous calendar year. For perspective, Russia was among the major players in the global oil market and among the largest producers alongside Saudi Arabia and U.S. As a response to Russia's actions, several Western countries, moved to stop or curtail their energy imports from Russia. This led to sharp increases in fossil fuel prices as sovereigns went to look for other suppliers for its energy needs, culminating in major profits for oil companies. This was a total reversal of fortunes compared to the onset of the pandemic when oil had struggled to even attain fiscal breakeven. According to *Reuters*, all 'Big Oil' companies (including BP, Chevron, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total Energies) combined, more than doubled their profits to $219 billion in 2022. In fact, Chevron commenced a share buyback programme amounting to $75 billion alongside a 6% increase in its quarterly dividend – both indicative of its financial strength.

In India, ONGC's profit-after-tax (PAT) until September end in the ongoing financial year stood at ₹28,032 crore, compared to the ₹40,306 crore in the complete fiscal ending March 31, 2022. The turn of events has led to oil companies prioritising investments in conventional sources to provide for energy security than transitioning towards cleaner energy to meet energy requirements. Industry participants have particularly argued about the need for investments to facilitate decarbonisation. In an interview to *CNBC*, Saudi Aramco's CEO Amin Nasser said that windfall taxes would not be helpful (for oil companies) to acquire additional investment. "There's no doubt, transition needs to (happen)," he stated, adding, "At the same time, we need to build oil and gas, while at the same time decarbonise oil and gas. We need support for alternatives. But at the same time, we need the support or the conventional sources of energy by building carbon capture and storage and giving incentives and support by policymakers."

What potentially lies ahead?

Nearly a year since the geopolitical conflict erupted, the International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that global oil markets are trading in "relative calm".

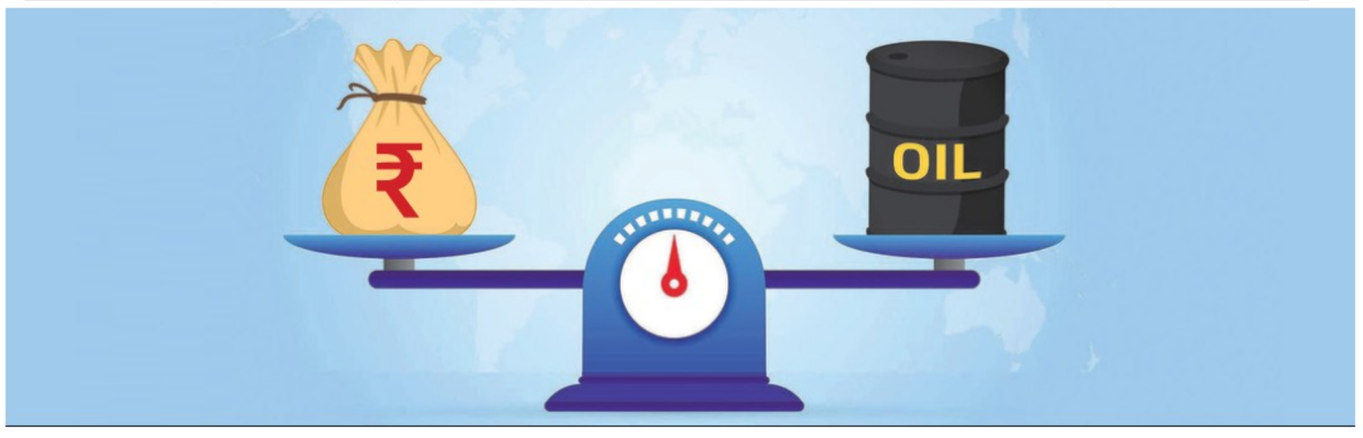
Oil prices are back to pre-war levels, exception being diesel, though it has also drifted much lower than last summer's historical highs. "World oil supply looks set to exceed demand through the first half of 2023, but the balance could shift quickly to deficit as demand recovers and some Russian output is shut in," read IEA's Oil Market Report for February 2023. It added that Russian oil production and exports have held up relatively well notwithstanding the sanctions. It has managed to reroute shipments of crude to Asia and the G7 price cap on crude "appears to be helping to keep the barrels flowing."

IEA estimates that global oil demand is set to rise by 2 mb/d in 2023 to 101.9 mb/d. The Asia-Pacific region, fuelled by China which resumed economic activities following a prolonged period of lockdowns, dominates the outlook. The supply side has been largely steady in January at around 100.8 mb/d.

The oil charge

This table shows the details of recent revisions made in the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on domestic crude oil production

The time period	November 17 to December 1, 2022	December 2 to December 15, 2022	December 16 to January 2, 2023	January 3 to January 16, 2023	January 17 to February 3, 2023	February 4, 2023 till date
Petroleum crude (rupee per tonne)	₹10,200	₹4,900	₹1,700	₹2,100	₹1,900	₹5,050



THE GIST

- On February 3, the Union government hiked the windfall profit tax levied on domestically-produced crude oil as well as on the export of diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- 'Windfall profits' refer to an unanticipated spike in earnings of an entity resulting from an exogenous event (which could be one-off and/or prolonged) and not resulting from a business decision.
- Russia's actions in Ukraine were central to the volatility observed in the oil market in the previous calendar year.

Understanding India's Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

What are the various challenges for the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017? What did the National Human Rights Commission say about the Act's execution across the country?

Saumya Kalia

The story so far:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a report flagged the "inhuman and deplorable" condition of all 46 government-run mental healthcare institutions across the country. The report notes that the facilities are "illegally" keeping patients long after their recovery, in what is an "infringement of the human rights of mentally ill patients". These observations were made after visits to all operational government facilities, to assess the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (MHA).

What does the MHA, 2017 say?

The MHA, 2017 "centered the agency of individuals, acknowledged their right to live as part of a community [under Section 19], and focused on rehabilitation," says Ms. Priti Sridhar, CEO of Mariwala Health Initiative (MHI). Under Section 19 of the Act, the government was made responsible for creating opportunities to access less restrictive options for community living – such as halfway homes, sheltered accommodations, rehab homes, and supported accommodation. The Act also discourages using physical restraints (such as chaining), unmodified electro-convulsive therapy (ECT), and pushes for the right to hygiene, sanitation, food, recreation, privacy, and infrastructure. More importantly, the Act recognised that "people have a capacity of their own – unless proven otherwise," says Tanya Fernandes, a researcher with the Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy. Additionally, under Section 5, people are empowered to make "advance directives". They can nominate a representative for themselves, thereby potentially helping to eliminate absolute forms of guardianship in favour of supported decision-making. This is barring cases where the person needs a higher degree of care and support. Experts note this was the first time a psychosocial approach to mental health was adopted. The Act acknowledged that external factors – such as income, social status, and education – impact mental well-being, and therefore, recovery needs a psychiatric as well as a social input.

What are the challenges?

While the MHA safeguards the rights of people in mental healthcare establishments, enforcement challenges remain. Almost 36.25% of residential service users at state psychiatric facilities were found to be living for one year or more in these facilities, according to a 2018 report by the Hans Foundation.

Under the MHA, all States are required to establish a State Mental Health Authority and Mental Health Review Boards (MHRBs) – bodies that can further draft standards for mental healthcare institutes, oversee their functioning and ensure they comply with the Act. Ms. Fernandes notes that in a majority of States, "these bodies are yet to be established or remain defunct…Further, many States have not notified minimum standards which are meant to ensure the quality of MHEs." Ms. Sridhar further notes that the Act takes on a human rights lens by shifting the obligation of care onto different stakeholders – including caregivers, government institutions, police officials, and mental health practitioners. Poor budgetary allocation and utilisation of funds creates a scenario where shelter homes remain underequipped, establishments understaffed, and professionals and service providers not adequately trained to deliver proper healthcare, she added. While Section 19 recognises the right of people to "live in, be part of, and not be segregated from society," there have been no concrete efforts towards implementation, according to Ms. Fernandes. The dearth of alternative community-based services further complicates access to rehabilitation.

THE GIST

- The National Human Rights Commission in a report flagged the "inhuman and deplorable" condition of all 46 government-run mental healthcare institutions across the country. These observations were made after visits to all operational government facilities, to assess the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (MHA).
- The MHA, 2017 "centered the agency of individuals, acknowledged their right to live as part of a community [under Section 19], and focused on rehabilitation".
- Poor budgetary allocation and utilisation of funds creates a scenario where shelter homes remain underequipped and establishments understaffed.

72% of Pink Line tunnel work has been completed: BMRCL

Tunnel work of two packages awarded to L&T from Rashtriya Military School to Tannery Road almost complete, says MD of BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tunnel boring machine 'Lavi' achieved a breakthrough on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has completed 72% of tunnel work under phase II of Namma Metro.

As part of the Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara metro line, the BMRCL is building a 13.90-km tunnel network from Dairy Circle to Nagawara (total length of twin tunnels is 21.245 km). To build the tunnel network, the BMRCL had deployed nine tunnel boring machines. A press release from the BMRCL states that out of 21.245 km of tunnelling to be done, 15.210 km (72%) has been completed.

Anjum Parwez, MD of BMRCL, said: "The tunnel works of two packages awarded to L&T from Shaadi Mahal on Tannery Road to Rashtriya Military School (Vellara Junction) are almost completed. Next month, one more tunnel boring machine deployed by the L&T will complete the task. Wherever the TBMs have completed the work, the contractor has started the first stage of concreting and followed by track-laying works. Meanwhile, the underground station is being implemented simultaneously." The official expressed confidence that by 2024, the entire underground line works will be completed.

Sources said that tunnel work between Dairy Circle to Vellara Junction is likely to finish by year end and Tannery Road to Nagawara by early next year.

Out of the nine machines, four machines have completed the drivers. Earlier, TBMs named Urja, Varada, and Avni had completed their designated length of tunnelling. On Wednesday, another TBM Lavi completed the drive by achieving a breakthrough at Rashtriya Military School station (Vellara Junction).

This machine started its journey from Shivajinagar on March 26, 2021, and emerged at M.G. Road station on April 15, 2022, after tunnelling a distance of 1,074 meters.

It further started burrowing towards Vellara Junction from May 26, 2022, and emerged successfully on Wednesday.

The release further states that TBM Vindhya, which is driving from Pottery Town station to Shaadi Mahal shaft is expected to complete the drive by the end of this month.

"With this, all the four TBMs deployed by L&T complete their work and the tunnelling of two packages will be completed. With the UG station works progressing well, the BMRCL has planned to complete and commission 21.30 km of Reach-6 (Pink Line) by end of March 2025," said the release.

Archdiocese of Bangalore raises concern over missing voter names

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Archdiocese of Bangalore has raised concerns over the alleged missing of names of voters from the Christian community and others in the electoral list pertaining to Shivajinagar constituency.

A representation submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer states: "On close scrutiny and verification, we observe that a large number of names belonging to the Christian Community is missing. Of the total 9,195 names, about 8,000 names that include voters from the SC, backward classes, and Muslim communities are missing. It is unfathomable and unbelievable that out of 193 booths, 91 of them were selectively picked up and the names that were under the voters' list of those booths were deleted. A large number of minorities reside in these pockets."

The Archdiocese brought it to the notice of the Election Commission that local MLA Rizwan Arshad had written to the Archdiocese about the "unethical and corrupt" activities taking place after the release of the final electoral rolls. "We fear that many constituencies across the city would have been tampered and meddled with impunity. If such mischiefs are allowed to carry on unchecked, the confidence of the people in the electoral process will be destroyed and devastated beyond measure," the letter said.

J.A. Kanthraj, spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Bangalore, said: "We have met the CEO and expressed our concerns over the arbitrary deletion of names of those voters belonging to the minority community. I am a resident of Koramangala, I have been staying with my family for 20 years and my name is missing from the electoral list."

Waqf board chairman booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police on Tuesday booked Waqf board chairman Shafi Saadi and politician KGF Babu for demolishing 33,000 sq.ft of residential properties belonging to Waqf board situated on K.H. road without permission. Based on a plaint filed by Alam Pasha, social activist, the police charged the duo under criminal trespass, mischief, and criminal intimidation.

Namma Clinics open, but dogged by unavailability of doctors and medical infrastructure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BUDGET 2022-23: REALITY CHECK

A patient getting treated in a Namma Clinic. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Namma Clinics announced in the 2022-23 State Budget and proposed to come up in all 243 wards of Bengaluru, have opened in many wards but are dogged by several issues.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has earmarked buildings and started these Namma Clinics only in 208 of the 243 wards. Some of those opened suffer from a severe shortage of doctors and medical infrastructure, including medicines.

A resident of Sanjaynagar said though a clinic was inaugurated it was never opened to the public. "Sometimes, when the shutters are up, civil works are under way. When I asked the officials, they said medical instruments are yet to reach the clinic, and doctors are yet to be appointed. Then why inaugurate it? They should have instead developed the Primary Health Centre (PHC)," said Mohan Kumar, the resident.

The project, billed as a healthcare counterpart to Indira Canteens providing subsidised food, has faced criticism over duplication of infrastructure since each ward already has a PHC. "There is no clarity on the role of PHCs and Namma Clinics. There are no PHCs in any of the 198 wards, while there is a proposal to expand it to the newly formed wards as well, taking the number to 243," an official said.

However, another official said the clinics would also focus on creating awareness about government healthcare schemes. "These clinics will provide services for detecting non-communicable diseases and referral for higher treatment to specialists. All appointments will be on temporary terms. The clinics will reduce the burden on the existing health facilities in urban areas," officials said.

Recruitment of doctors

Civic officials said the unavailability of doctors was a major problem.

"The civic body has advertised for the job positions multiple times but has not been able to recruit doctors for all the clinics. The other clinics in all the wards will be opened in phases once the recruitment is completed," a BBMP official said.

To sort this out, the BBMP plans to recruit doctors under the Karnataka Compulsory Medical Services Act, which prescribes one-year compulsory service in different types of government health institutions for all postgraduates and undergraduates passing out from Karnataka.

Officials also said the BBMP was looking into another alternative under the National Medical Guidelines, where doctors are required to serve for a specific period in State hospitals after the completion of their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

K. Sudhakar, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, earlier said doctors would be roped in soon, and the project was launched two months ago. However, it has seen little progress since then.

ABSTRACT

Affirmative action: Members of the Asur tribe, also a particularly vulnerable tribal group, record news and songs for their mobile radio community in the Latehar district of Jharkhand. FILE PHOTO

The role of welfare schemes and policies for the Parhaiyas of Jharkhand

Like most tribal groups, the Parhaiyas also share a history of exploitation and alienation from mainstream society despite having a rich culture and heritage. A look at the extent to which food and social security schemes help vulnerable tribal communities in Jharkhand

Rebecca Rose Varghese

Somanchi, Anmol, 'Food and Social Security at the Margins: The Parhaiyas of Jharkhand', Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 58, Issue 4, January 28, 2023.

While many government policies and schemes have been announced across the country to help vulnerable communities, it is imperative to look at the extent to which these schemes have succeeded. Anmol Somachi's paper, 'Food and Social Security at the Margins: The Parhaiyas of Jharkhand' is one such study that examines the level of penetration and coverage of government schemes and the bottlenecks that hinder its implementation.

At the margins of society

In 2003, the Supreme Court instructed governments to provide 35 kilograms of subsidised foodgrains every month to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) through the public distribution system (PDS). Furthermore, the Jharkhand government, in 2015, introduced the Adim Jan Jati Pension (AJJP) scheme, which provides ₹600 every month to such households provided they are not already included in another pension scheme. It is in this context that the author looks at the effectiveness of welfare schemes promised to the Parhaiyas. A door-to-door survey of all PVTG households was conducted in November 2018, in the Manika block of Latehar district and Satbarwa block of Palamu district in Jharkhand. The survey, conducted by teams of student volunteers, looked at the status and coverage of social security programmes and the barriers to implementing such schemes. They visited 13 and five villages/hamlets in Manika and Satbarwa, respectively. Incidentally, all the households where the study was conducted, were from the Parhaiya tribe.

The author introduces the Parhaiya community of Jharkhand as one of the 75 communities listed under the PVTGs in the country. Like most tribal groups, despite having a rich culture and heritage, with different languages and livelihoods, the Parhaiyas share a history of exploitation, discrimination, marginalisation and alienation from mainstream society. Traditionally, their main source of living came from shifting agriculture and hunting-gathering. But climate change, wildlife and forest policies, denial of land rights and encroachment of their ancestral land by governments have made their livelihoods precarious. This has led to poverty, hunger and malnourishment in the community. The author explains that though the rate of development and advancement is extremely slow, the present living conditions are better, with almost every household having at least one source of clean drinking water, and toilet facilities and a few families even building pucca houses with the help of government housing schemes.

Yet, the potential for social mobility seems to be poor due to the lack of proper education. Among adults, more than two-thirds have never attended school and more than 25% of the younger generation have come out of school. Access to education was limited, putting the community at the mercy of precarious labour. Many, including children, were forced to enter exploitative labour contracts. With livelihood being so insecure, the community largely depends on government social security schemes.

Food and pension schemes

In Jharkhand, 88% of PVTG households were on the PDS list and under the Antyodaya scheme which ensured that PDS grains were free of cost for them. The author explains that such coverage was commendable as most households were scattered across the State.

However, the lack of a new ration card or Aadhar-related issues resulted in 12% of households not having access to such schemes. It was seen that in areas where Aadhaar-based biometric authentication (ABBA) was mandatory, it became difficult to buy PDS grains. There has been a significant improvement in the PDS in the last decade.

Yet, problems of biometrics and corruption persist, becoming bottlenecks to the smooth functioning of such schemes. Many PDS dealers continue to take small cuts in the name of transportation at the time of monthly distribution, a practice locally known as katauti.

According to the author, attempts by the government to prevent corruption through biometrics and new schemes that eliminate the middlemen have largely failed due to a lack of digital infrastructure and poor management. On the other hand, pension schemes were better administered in the State, with lesser issues of corruption. But it has faced other challenges.

To begin with, the amount has remained very low (between ₹200 to ₹600) for a long time. Secondly, pensions were stopped for many households due to Aadhar-related issues and similar to the PDS system, many new families were excluded from the scheme due to a lack of ration cards. Thirdly, the pendency rate of the applications was high. Since there is a ceiling on the total pensions that local administrations adhere to due to budgetary restrictions, many eligible applicants remain on a waiting list till a vacancy opens up.

Almost 34% of the Parhaiya households surveyed had one or more pending applications. More than 60% of pension-less households had not applied for pensions despite meeting all eligibility criteria. The coercive introduction of the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS) for the payment of pension in 2019 has created a new hassle as pension payments have been discontinued for many households in Manika and Satbarwa due to problems related to e-KYC and Aadhaar.

The poor levels of digital infrastructure in the rural population and the government's decision to expand the scale of Aadhaar have resulted in more problems, let alone transparency, in the process of distributing social security schemes.

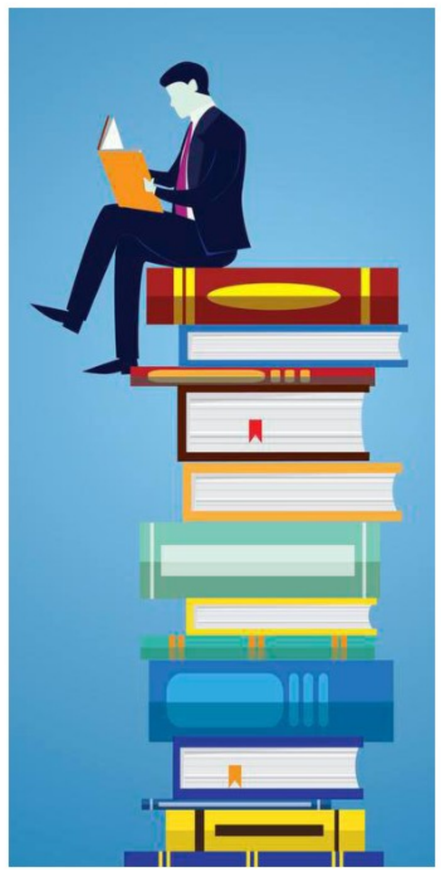
A long way to go

The coverage of the food and social security schemes implemented by the government for the Parhaiya community must be considered a success, as it has improved significantly in the last decade.

Yet, most households that received both pension and food rations still reported occasional or frequent hunger. This shows the inadequacy of the basic food security and welfare provided to the tribal community in the State.

The provision of food and pension alone is insufficient for the overall development of vulnerable communities. Instead of merely focusing on short-term schemes that appease the public, more schemes and policies that promote long-term solutions such as stable employment and education along with maternity and healthcare benefits must be introduced by the local government for all vulnerable communities.

Moreover, steps must be taken to ensure that the overall social conditions of the community are improved.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. S. Narayanaswamy, Chitra Gupta Road, New Delhi is worried about the use of the word 'corpus' to mean 'funds'. He wonders whether it is correct as he doesn't find this meaning in dictionaries."

"Corpus is used these days in the sense of 'the principal, as distinguished from the interest or income of an estate, investment etc.'. In this sense, the word has been used for a long time in American English. Its use in this sense is rather recent in British English and hence is recorded only in one or two dictionaries published recently."

"Mr. A. Srinivasacharyulu, Guntur, wants to know the meaning of 'ham-handed'."

" 'Ham-handed' or 'ham-fisted' means 'clumsy, heavy-handed'.

He dealt with the delicate situation in a ham-handed manner.

This police officer is noted for his ham-handed actions."

"Mr. A. S. Pandey of Benares wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'There is no love lost between them'."

"It means that there is no love for each other.

John and Jane disliked each other. There is no love lost between them.

There was a time when this had two contradictory meanings: (a) they love each other, (b) they don't like each other. From the context, one had to find out which of the two was meant. It was only about a century ago that the meaning 'They love each other' became obsolete (out of date)."

"Several readers want to know the meaning of 'shoot from the hip'."

'Shoot from the hip' means to act impulsively, impetuously. This refers to the act of firing a handgun from the hip without taking aim at the person or object. This is an impulsive act. He is not a reflective or balanced person. He acts rashly. He is notorious for shooting from the hip."

"Mr. B. Gautham Babu, Natarajapuram S. Colony, Thanjavur, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'fie'."

'Fie' is 'an exclamation expressing disgust or shock'. 'Fie upon you' means you should be ashamed of yourself. 'Fie' is archaic, it is hardly ever used these days. 'Fie' rhymes with 'tie' and 'high'."

Published in The Hindu on February 10, 1987

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With Bengal and Saurashtra entering the Ranji Trophy finals, here's a quiz on India's major first-class cricket tournament

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Which Indian international cricketer, who celebrates his birthday today, holds the record for most runs in the Ranji Trophy?

QUESTION 2

This 25-year-old batter had yet another stellar season in the Ranji Trophy this year with 556 runs scored at an average of 92.66. Among cricketers who have played at least 50 innings in first class cricket, his is the second-best average (79.65) behind only Donald Bradman (95.14). Name him.

QUESTION 3

This bowler from Punjab continues to hold the record for the most wickets in the Ranji Trophy (639). Despite his great haul, he never played in an official Test for India. Name him.

QUESTION 4

Vijay Merchant (98.35) and Sachin Tendulkar (85.62) hold the record for the highest Ranji Trophy batting averages for anyone who scored more than 3,500 runs in the tournament. The batsman who ranks third also holds the record of scoring the most runs in a single season in the tournament (1,415 in the 1999-2000 season). Name him.

QUESTION 5

An all-rounder in the truest sense, this outstanding footballer who represented India internationally and Mohun Bagan in club football, also led the Bengal team to the Ranji Trophy final in the 1971-72 season. Name him.

Visual question:

This photo was taken in November 2010 on the day the cricketer (on the right) took eight wickets for 10 runs for his team while bundling out Hyderabad for just 21 runs, the lowest score by any team in the Ranji Trophy. Name the cricketer and the State he played for. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This philosopher was sentenced to death for corrupting the minds of the youth. **Ans: Socrates**

2. This U.S. Navy ship sunk in this country's harbour in 1898, leading to the beginning of this war between the U.S. and the said country. **Ans: Maine, Havana, Spanish–American War**

3. This astronomer championed this astronomical model that positioned the Sun at the centre of the universe. **Ans: Galileo Galilei, Copernican heliocentrism**

4. This Nobel Laureate formed a committee to resolve the lack of an official flag for this country. **Ans: Lester B. Pearson; Canada**

5. This was the first programmable, general-purpose digital computer, completed in 1945 by this State. **Ans: ENIAC, Philadelphia**

6. This Indian singer popularised the use of synthesised disco music in the Indian music industry. **Ans: Bappi Lahiri**

Visual: This Indian poet's statue is located here. **Ans: Mirza Ghalib, Jamia Millia Islamia**

Early Birds: Moumita Roy Basu| S. Sampath Kumar| Komal Vasudeva| Manish Babal| Visakh. A. M

Word of the day

Iridescent:
varying in colour when seen in different lights or from different angles; having a play of lustrous rainbow colours

Synonyms:
changeable, opalescent, opaline

Usage:
The material of her saree gives off iridescent hues.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/iridescentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪrɪˈdɛsnt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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A BG-BGE

On the menu: Mushroom cookie, chutney powder, and rasam powder

IIHR develops value-added products with the aim of inculcating entrepreneurship through the production of these products

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fancy a mushroom cookie, health drink, chutney powder or rasam powder? The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) in Hesaraghatta has developed five kinds of mushroom millet cookies and various value-added products from mushrooms aimed at inculcating entrepreneurship through the production of these products.

One of the five kinds of mushroom millet cookies developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research in Hesaraghatta on the outskirts of Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 'Arka mushroom millet cookies' technology uses dry elm oyster mushroom (Hypsizygus ulmarius) powder in combination with five different millet flours (sorghum or jowar, pearl millet or bajra, corn or maize, finger millet or ragi and little millet or sawai) for the production of mushroom millet cookies. IIHR officials said this is the first of its kind to be developed since mushrooms and millets are well known for their culinary medicinal properties.

"Mushrooms are a novel horticultural crop gaining importance and also are a very good source of protein, fibre, iron, vitamins B and D, potassium, phosphorus, selenium and copper. They also contain polysaccharides and antioxidant ergothioneine, which are immune stimulators and anticancer agents," Chandrashekara C, Senior Scientist, from IIHR said.

"At the same time, it is good for diabetics and heart patients due to their low energy, very low fat, no sugar, and ability to reduce cholesterol and triglycerides. These cookies and value-added products will increase the consumption of mushrooms, and also the cultivation of the mushrooms will increase and benefit the farmers," the scientist said.

On the occasion of the International Year of the Millet this year, the IIHR is also giving importance to mushroom products using millets. "Millets are again regaining their importance as a staple food source due to their varied nutritional potential. Blended or combination food or products can be an important way to diversify the food plate and obtain balanced nutrition. Development of mushroom millet cookies is a step towards blending the nutritional goodness of mushrooms and millets for better taste and nutrition," he explained.

National Horticulture Fair from Feb. 22 to 25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Horticulture Fair 2023 (NHF2023) will be held between February 22 and 25 in Hessarghatta on the outskirts of the city under the theme of 'innovative horticulture for self-reliance', said Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director of ICAR-IIHR and chairman of organising committee NHF 2023.

Last year, the event was cancelled due to the pandemic, and in 2021, the fair was in a hybrid mode because of the pandemic. "This year, we expect a footfall of at least 50,000 from across the country. Various stalls will be put up, which will benefit farmers. IIHR aims to showcase and demonstrate the latest technologies, vegetable and medicinal crop varieties for import substitution, pollination in protected cultivation, flower waste utilisation, terrace gardening solutions for urban horticulture, production technologies for exotic fruits and cost-effective traps for management of invasive pests etc." Mr. Singh said.

The fair has become popular over the years and attracted farmers from different States.

Tribals trained under TSP project in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has trained more than 1,000 tribals in mushroom cultivation, honey bee keeping and various vegetable production technologies over the last five years, under the TSP project in Karnataka.

Chenna Reddy Aswath, Principal Scientist, IIHR, said, "We have successfully trained the tribals, especially Soliga tribes in Biligiri Rangana Hills in Chamarajanagar district and other parts of Karnataka under the TSP project. The project's beneficiaries are now cultivating various vegetable crops and mushrooms and earning well. The project aims to bring the downtrodden towards sustainable socio-economic and livelihood activities."

In the last five years, IIHR has extended its TSP project in Chickballapur, Sira, Pavagada, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Raichur, and other parts of the State.

Customer interaction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bescom will hold a customer interaction meeting on February 20 from 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at its sub-divisions to address electricity-related issues with one-on-one interaction with officials.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client **Sri.Narendra M.C.** has **lost** the original Gift deed dated 26-12-2002, registered on 21-01-2003, registered as Document No.2290/2002-03, in respect of property bearing Sy.No.113, situated at **Vagata Agrahara Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** near Xerox Shop at Vagata Village, Hoskote. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. **9844155041 and 7592891175.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ನಂ.ಕಿಮ್ಸ್/ನಿಕಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/677 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14-02-2023

ಪ್ರಿಕ್ವಾಲಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್‌ಗೆ 'ಇ' ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪಿಡಬ್ಲುಡಿ)ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೆಂದು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ 'ಇ' ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಿಕ್ವಾಲಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ರೂ.	ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ)	ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ
	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲು – 4 ನೇ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು				
1.	**ಕಿಮ್ಸ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದು :** ಅ) ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬ) ಆಡಿಟೋರಿಯಂ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿಯ ಖಿಲ್ಲಾ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ Open theatre for cultural activities ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ Permanent Structure ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	1,99,91,532	ಇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ	6 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಒಂದನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
2.	**ಕಿಮ್ಸ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದು :** ಅ) ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಭಾಗಶಃ ನವೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬ) ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ಕ್ವಾಸ್–4 (58 ಮನೆಗಳು) ರಿಪೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	1,95,46,433	ಇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ	6 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಒಂದನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲು – 3 ನೇ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು				
3.	**ಕಿಮ್ಸ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ವಾರ್ಡ ಮತ್ತು ತುರ್ತು ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಸುತ್ತ ಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೇ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ**	96,65,347	ಇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ	3 ತಿಂಗಳು	2ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲಿನ ದರ್ಜೆ

ಸದರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲು–3 & 4ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಝೆರಾಕ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರ್ಮನೊಂದಿಗೆ (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದಾದರೊಂದು ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ "ಈ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್" ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಆಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

1. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17.02.2023
2. ಪೂರ್ವ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 23.02.2023ರ 12.00 ಘಂಟೆ
3. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 27.02.2023ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ
4. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 01.03.2023ರ 12.00 ಘಂಟೆ

ಕೆಲಸದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕಿಮ್ಸ್, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ, ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

FORM NO. 22
[See Regulation – 37(1)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING DIVISION)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru – 560 001

SALE PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 48 TO 51 AND 52[2] OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993

TRC No. 166/2018 in OA No. 1198/2013

BETWEEN : Punjab National Bank (erstwhile United Bank of India)
VS
M/S Kinfotech Private Limited & Ors

To, 1. M/s Kinfotech Private Limited, #2/10, Ajay Plaza, 1st Main, NS Palya, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560076.
2. Mr D Ravikumar s/o Doraiswamy K, No. E-1201, Mantri Elegance Apartments, NS Palya, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560076.
3. Mr Prabhakar Kini, #B-202, Mantri Gardens, Mountain Road, Bengaluru – 560076.

Whereas you have failed to pay the sum of **Rs. 31,97,77,294.54/- (Rupees Thirty-One Crores Ninety-Seven Lakhs Seventy-Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety-Four and Fifty-Four paise)** payable by you in respect of **Recovery Certificate No. TRC No. 166/2018 IN O.A. NO. 1198/2013** by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore and the interest and costs as per certificate. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Certificates.

And whereas there will be due there under a sum of **Rs. 1,26,61,21,166/- (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Six Crore Sixty One lakhs Twenty one Thousand One Hundred & Sixty six only)** plus further interest, costs and charges as on **15.02.2023** along with future interest till realization. (Note Any recovery/amount paid in respect of the loan, dues lying with DRT Bangalore or with the Certificate Holder Bank, which are recovered by other modes of recovery, shall be adjusted to the loan dues at the time of closure of the Case).

Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold on **21 March 2023 between 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM** by e auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website: **http://drt.auctiontiger.net M/s e-Procurement Technologies Ltd, (Auction Tiger) Ahmedabad [Contact No. 9722778828 or 079-6813-6841, / 55 / 51 or 079-6813-6800 Email Id Karnataka@auctiontiger.net, praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net].** Contact person- **Mr Praveen Kumar Thevar – 9722778828.**

For further details contact **Mr. S R Madhukar,** Assistant General Manager, Punjab National Bank, SASTRA centre Bangalore east Circle No.26-27 MG Road Raheja towers 1st floor Bangalore-560001 for ascertaining the details of the property and also for inspection of property, **contact Mobile: 9632788227.**

The sale will be of the property of the defendant No. 1 above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

The property will be put up for the sale in a single lot specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the reminder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said Certificate, interest costs [including cost of the sale] are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in second schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions.

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

1. The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is **Rs. 19,00,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores Only).**
2. The amount by which the biddings in the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
3. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be at discretion of the undersigned to decline/ accept the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
4. Ten percent EMD shall be deposited by the proposed bidder through RTGS/NEFT/directly into the Indian Bank Account No.6735242318, B/o Richmond Circle, Bangalore through IFSC CODE IDIB000R018 or by way of DD favoring Recovery officer-1, DRT-2 payable at Bangalore in the account of "Punjab National Bank RC No. 166/2018". The intending bidders should submit the bid form duly filled along with copy of PAN Card, Address Proof and Identity Proof, Email Id, Mobile no. and in case of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company and the receipt/ counter file of such deposit/Demand Draft towards EMD in a sealed cover **by 3.00 PM on 18th March 2023** to Recovery Officer 1 DRT 2 Bangalore. The sealed cover should be superscribed with "Bid Form for participating in e auction sale in TRC No 166/2018", Bid form may be collected from the Bank's office or the office of DRT. EMD deposited thereafter shall not be considered for participation in the e auction.
5. **The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of EMD on being knocked down by next date by 3.00 pm** in the said account as per detail mentioned in para 4 above. If the next day is holiday or Sunday, then on next first office working day.
6. The purchaser shall deposit the balance **75% of the sale proceeds on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property,** exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 4 above. In addition to the above the purchaser shall also deposit poundage fee with Recovery Officer 2 DRT 2 Bangalore @2% upto Rs.1000 and 1% on amounts above Rs.1000/- online through www.bharatkosh.gov.in by selecting the following:

Ministry -> Department of Financial services -> Functional head -> service fees PAO code 006701, PAO, DFS, Nagpur and DDO code 208095, SO/DRT2 Bangalore.

A copy of the receipt is to be filed before this Authority for record purpose.

7. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the deposit, after defraying expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. The property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
8. The prospective bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the bank and verify the latest Encumbrance Certificate and other Revenue/Municipal records to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves on the title and encumbrance, if any over the property.

The property is being sold on "**AS IS WHERE IS AND AS IS WHATEVER IS BASIS**".

No. of lots	1
Description of the properties to be sold with names of owners where the properties belonging to defaulter any other person as co-owners	**Scheduled Property standing in the name of CD No. 1 M/s Kinfotech Private Limited**
Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	**Rs. 2 lakhs (estimated) as per the Bank.**
Details of any of the encumbrance to which the property is liable	**Nil as per EC submitted by the Bank**
Claims, if any which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value	**Nil**
Reserve Price	**Rs. 19,00,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores only)**
EMD	**Rs. 1,90,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakhs only)**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of land bearing Survey No. 110 situated at Doddathogur village, Begur Hobli, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru – 560100, bounded on **East:** Survey No. 112 and Land and Binary Spectrum Softech Private Limited, **West:** Road, **North:** Road and Lake, **South:** Private Property, Totally measuring **2 Acres 34 Guntas** covered thereby comprising all lands and buildings, structures, erections, fixtures and fitting thereon and therein and all rights and appurtenances both present and future.

(GPS Location: 12.8492110, 77.6445876)

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Date and time of E-Auction	**21 March 2023 between 11.00 AM and 11.30 AM**
Last date and time for submission of bids/ tender submission/EMD	**18 March 2023 before 15.00 Hours**
Reserve Price	**Rs. 19,00,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores only)**
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs. 1,90,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakhs only)**
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs only)**

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **13th of February 2023.**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer I
Debts Recovery Tribunal – II, Bengaluru

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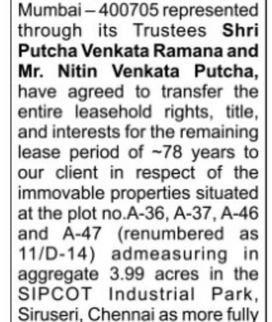

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHAITRA Panduranga, D/o S Panduranga, r/at #40/1, 9th D Main Road, Byraveshwaranagara, Bangalore - 560072 have changed my name as Chaitra Sirimalla, vide affidavit dtd 15.02.2023 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bluru

I Arunachalam S/O, Subramanian S A R/o 502,Vars Ferndale,Kodihalli,16th E Main Road, Hal 2nd stage, Indiranagar Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name to Arunachalam Subramanian for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that **INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT TRUST** having its registered office at No. 601, 6th Floor, Center Point Building, 18th Road, Chembur, Mumbai-400 071 and office at 1001, Platinum Technopark, Sector 30A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai – 400705 represented through its Trustees **Shri Putcha Venkata Ramana and Mr. Nitin Venkata Putcha,** have agreed to transfer the entire leasehold rights, title, and interests for the remaining lease period of ~78 years to our client in respect of the immovable properties situated at the plot no.A-36, A-37, A-46 and A-47 (renumbered as 11/D-14) admeasuring in aggregate 3.99 acres in the SIPCOT Industrial Park, Siruseri, Chennai as more fully described in Schedule hereunder written.

Any person (s) having any claim, demand, right, benefit or interest in respect of or against or to the immovable properties described in the Schedule hereunder set out or any part/portion thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, right, interest, share, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, encumbrance, occupation, covenant, trust, maintenance, easement, preemption, inheritance, bequest, possession, agreement, lis pendens, family arrangement, settlement, decree or order of any court of law, partnership or otherwise howsoever is required to make the same known in writing supported by authenticated photocopies of supporting documents to the undersigned at **Suite 305, 3rd Floor, Delta Wing, Raheja Towers, #177, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002, Tamil Nadu within 7 (seven) days** from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be presumed that there do not exist any claim (s) and the same, if any, will be considered as waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Immovable Properties above referred to)

PROPERTY 1

All that piece and parcel of land known as Plot Nos. A-36, A-46 and A-47 (New No. 11/D14pt.) (renumbered as 11/D-14) in the SIPCOT Information Technology at Siruseri within the village limits of Siruseri Taluk of Chengalpattu Sub-Registration District of Thiruporur in Kancheepuram Revenue District containing by admeasurement 2.99 acres there abouts, bearing Survey Nos. 240/Part and bounded.

On the North By SIPCOT Road
On the South By SIPCOT Road
On the East By SIPCOT Road
On the West By Plot Nos. A-37 and A-48

PROPERTY 2

All that piece and parcel of land known as Plot No. A.37 (New No. D.14/2) (renumbered as 11/D-14) in the SIPCOT's Information Technology Park at Siruseri within the village limits of Egattur Taluk of Chengalpet Sub-registration District of Thiruporur in Kancheepuram Revenue District containing by admeasurement 1.00 acre or there abouts, bearing Survey No.240/pt. of Siruseri Village and bounded:

On the North By: 20 mts. Wide Road
On the South By: Plot No.D.14/1
On the East By: Plot No.D.14/1
On the West By: Plot No. A.29

Dated this 16th day of February 2023.

R. Ravichandran
Senior Partner
Kochhar & Co.
Advocates and Legal Consultants
Suite 305, 3rd Floor, Delta Wing, Raheja Towers #177, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002, Tamil Nadu

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Nabajeet Kalita S/o Shiva Prasad Kalita, residing at 3071 Casa Paradiso 3, Sobha City, R K Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560077, have changed the name of minor Daughter Shivensha Nabajeet aged 8yrs & she shall hereafter be known as Shivensha Kalita for all purposes in future.

I, SANJARI Abdul Munaf Bhai Nurani W/o Mohammed Bilal residing at No.437/1, Gowramma Layout, 18th Cross, 18th Main, Near MBM Apartments, J P Nagar, 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 Karnataka have changed my name to Sanjari Nurani vide affidavit dated 14/02/2023 before C V Earappa Notary Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. INC-26
(Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Before the Central Government, Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of
DB RRTS OPERATIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U74999KA2019FTC121834)
having its Registered Office at **3rd Floor, North Wing, No. 82/4 Hulkul Brigade Center, Lavelle Road, Ward no 76, Bangalore, Rural Bangalore, Karnataka-560001, India**
.....**Applicant Company / Petitioner**

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on **13th February, 2023** to enable the company to change its Registered Office from **"State of Karnataka"** to the **"National Capital Territory of Delhi"**.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his /her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his / her interest and grounds of opposition to the **Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, South East Region, 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana** within fourteen days (14) from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant Company at its Registered Office at the address mentioned below:-
3rd Floor, North Wing, No. 82/4 Hulkul Brigade Center, Lavelle Road, Ward no 76, Bangalore, Rural Bangalore, Karnataka-560001, India

For & on behalf of **DB RRTS OPERATIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED**
Sd/-
MILIND ARVIND NIRMAL
(DIRECTOR)
DIN : 08373199
Date : 16.02.2023
Place : Bangalore

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
O.A. No. 434 & 435 Of 2022
in
C.S.No. 146 of 2022

M/s. TRACTORS AND FARM EQUIPMENT LIMITED
77, Nungambakkam High Road,
Chennai – 600 034.
Rep. by its Authorised Signatory,
Mr. C.P.Sounderarajan ...Applicant/Plaintiff

Vs.

1.Twitter Inc.
1355 MARKET STREET,
SUITE 900, San Francisco,
CA 94103, United States.
Rep. by its Authorised Representative,
2. Meta Platforms Inc.
1601 Willow Road,
Menlo Park
CA 94025,
United States.
Represented by its Authorised Representative
3. Ashok Kumar
Address unknown & Others
... Respondents/Defendants

PUBLIC NOTICE

We act on behalf of our Clients. M/s. Tractors and Farm Equipments Limited. having their Office at No.77, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai 600034.

Our Clients have filed a Suit in C.S. No. 146 of 2022 before the Hon'ble Madras High Court against the publication of the posts mentioned in the Schedule to the Plaint, posted on the Social Media Platforms "Twitter" and "Facebook", praying for reliefs of declaration that such posts are inter alia contrary to law, defamatory of our clients, infringe upon their intellectual property rights etc., and for permanent injunctions for removing the posts and preventing further publication.

In the Suit, our Clients have also filed an Application in O.A. Nos. 434 of 2022 praying for an ad-interim injunction restraining the Respondents from continuing to host, or display the social media Posts mentioned in the Schedule to the Judges Summons on their respective social media platforms pending disposal of the suit.

A copy of the Plaint, Affidavit, Judges Summons and Documents are available at our office and may be collected at the below address.

An Application in O.A. No. 435 of 2022 had also been filed praying for an order of ad-Interim Injunction restraining the Respondents from publishing, posting, exhibiting, displaying, publishing any material, content, videos, audio, tweets, posts etc. that are false, defamatory, inciteful, inflammatory and abusive as against the Plaintiff Company, management and staff pending disposal of the suit.

The Hon'ble Madras High Court was pleased to grant ad-interim injunction as prayed for in O.A.Nos. 434 and 435 of 2022 on 29.07.2022 and the Order continues to remain in force as on date.

The Order dt. 29.07.2022 is hereby being brought to the notice of the General Public and any person desirous to support or oppose the relief prayed for in C.S. No. 146 of 2022, O.A. Nos. 434 and 435 of 2022 may appear before the Hon'ble Court at the next date of hearing on 28.02.2023.

Dated at Chennai on this the 13th day of February, 2023.

M/s. S. Ramasubramaniam & Associates, Advocates
First Floor, "Century Centre", New No. 75 (Old No. 39), T.T.K Road, Chennai - 600 018.
E-mail- srsanda@gmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I SMARTY Singh D/o Sanjay Kumar Singh R/o HNo. 18, 3rd Main 5th Cross, Kodichikkanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka –560076; have changed my name to Sanjana Singh

I, AKANKSHA Amit Salecha, R/a No.B-402, 4th Floor, ETA The Garden Apt, Binny Mill Road, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 have changed my name to Akanksha Bhansali vide affidavit dt: 15.02.2023 sworn before Notary Lakshmaiah, B'lore

I, MOHAMMED Arif Siddiqui Nawab, R/o No 328/14, 13th Cross, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Nagawara Main Road, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Mohammed Arif Siddiqui vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2023 sworn before Notary C.Sharada, B'lore

LEGAL NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(ORDER 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Ms. Neelam Singh
District Judge (COMM-02), (South East)
Room No. 14, Block-1, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi
Suit No. : CS/COMM/510/21
Sh. Puneet Gupta
Versus
M/s Novus And Berry India Others
To,
1. Novus And Berry India
At : #82/4B, Sarjapur Road, Next to Wipro Corporate Office Bangalore-560035. Through its Partners
2. Sh. Vallabhhaneni Chandershekhar
Partner Novus And Berry India
At : #82/4B, Sarjapur Road, Next to Wipro Corporate Office, Bangalore-560035.
3. Partner Novus And Berry India (Name not known)
At : #82/4B, Sarjapur Road, Next to Wipro Corporate Office, Bangalore-560035.

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading the service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **18-03-2023,** the day fixed for file a written statement within 30 days and appear in this court, it will be heard and determined ex-parties.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court this 10-02-2023. Sd/
District Judge (COMM-02), (South East)
Seal Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi

Proclamation Requiring Attendance Of Defendant
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of
Sh. Munish Markan,
ADJ-02, South-East District,
Saket Courts, New Delhi.
Room No. 615
CSDJ-877/2019

NOTICE
M/s Todaytec India Pvt. Ltd.
Versus
M/s Exotica Clothing

To,
1. M/s Exotica Clothing, Add.: C/o Texspace Solutions, Plot No. 7 & 8, 1st Floor, Survey No. 11/3, Abbigere, Bangaluru Urban, Karnataka-560090 Through its Proprietor/ authorised Signatories
2. Mr. Thekke Kalathil Ramadas, Proprietor/Auth. Representative of M/s Exotica Clothing,
Add.: C/o Texspace Solution, Plot No. 7 & 8, 1st Floor, Survey No. 11/3, Abbigere, Bangaluru Urban, Karnataka-560090.

THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **25th day of February, 2023** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard & determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this **18th day of January, 2023.**

Additional District Judge-02 South East, Saket, New Delhi
Seal

IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL' CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 26909/2022
Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Chithra M ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Chithra M D/o Sri. Muthuraj Permaul, Aged about

Agile Suryakiran team takes to air, shrinks gap between manoeuvres by 20 seconds

Aerobatic team has evolved over the years from 50-second gap between manoeuvres to 30 seconds

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The manoeuvres in the breathtaking display by the Suryakiran aerobatic team that has left millions spellbound across the world, has evolved over the years from a 50-second gap between manoeuvres to 30 seconds.

The team flies with nine Hawk Mk132 as part of the flying display now. After years of gap during the transition from the earlier HJT-16 Kiran Mk2 trainer jets to Hawks, the training for acrobatic display had started with one aircraft and the synchronisation with nine aircrafts came in phases after it started public display in 2015.

Gp. Capt. G.S. Dhillon, who heads the team of 12 pilots in Suryakirans, said that the team plan for flying display is modified depending on the terrain, and team practises for about six months in a year to finetune manoeuvres. "Over the last few years, the gaps between manoeuvres have come down from about 50 seconds to 30 seconds, leaving the audience spellbound. We display between September and March during which we perform in about 30 displays across the country and the other six months we train together. For Aero India, training is quite in advance as it is a premier show."

One of the team members, Sq. Ldr. Deepanker Garg said: "We work on the manoeuvres keeping safety as a paramount aspect and interest of the audience in mind. We do not want the audience to be bored. Because it is a jet aircraft with high speed, the manoeuvres take time and reducing the time gap between manoeuvres, we keep audience interest high."

Providing interesting nuggets of the display, Gp. Capt. Dhillon said that each aircraft uses about 500 kg of fuel per display where aircrafts will be flying at a speed of about 600 km. "During the performance, when the aircraft is flying individually, pilots experience 5G to 6G and when performing together, pilots experience up to 4G," he said.

Explaining the changes in Suryakirans over the last two decades, Wg. Cdr. Akshay (retd), who was with the team between 2003 and 2005, said: "Slower aeroplanes meant the display was more compact. With lot of G force in high speed jet, it is physically demanding now for the pilot and the display is no longer compact." He was among the IAF pilots who wrote papers that laid down parameters for the new team in Hawks, based on experiences with the Kirans.

When COVID-19 hit, it affected the training of Suryakirans. "There were only fly pasts, which meant there was no display for the audience," Gp. Capt. Dhillon said, adding that they are back to where they belong: captivating the audience with a combination of speed and skill.

Indian Air Force aerobatic team Suryakiran performing on the third day of Aero India 2023 at Airforce Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hawk Mk132 develops glitch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One of the Hawk Mk132s, part of the Suryakiran aerobatics team of the Indian Air Force that took to skies on Wednesday, returned midway after it developed a technical snag.

While a total of nine aircrafts are part of the India's premier acrobatic team in any display, eight aircrafts performed the air manoeuvres after one of them landed.

IAF sources said that the cabin control system that controls the temperature malfunctioned during the flight forcing the pilot to declare emergency and land. "It normally takes about a minute for the cabin temperature to settle down. However, on Wednesday, hot air continued to come in and that could raise the temperature in cockpit, causing inconvenience to the pilot."

IAF sources said that the issue would be resolved, and the team of nine aircrafts would perform on Thursday when a massive crowd is set to watch the dazzling display.

Leading investors have pledged more than ₹200 cr. Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that leading Indian investors have pledged more than ₹200 crore under the Innovations For Defence Excellence (iDEX) Investor Hub (iIH).

Mr. Singh launched the ninth edition of the Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 9) on cybersecurity with 28 problem statements and the iDEX Investor Hub.

'Introduced innovators'

He said iDEX has introduced several innovators to the market, leading to direct and indirect employment generation for our skilled, and semi-skilled workers.

"iDEX has helped the development of several home-grown technologies and has provided an important platform to showcase innovations and technological developments. Start-ups that have developed because of iDEX are also getting orders, which has fostered the start-up ecosystem in the country. iDEX has also given professionals the opportunity to understand futuristic technologies like Artificial Intelligence, augmented reality, and blockchain," Mr. Singh said. The iDEX initiative is launched under the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), which is part of the Ministry of Defence.

On the occasion, DIO also signed MoUs with leading investors. MoUs were signed with ISRO, INSPACe, and ISpA to further strengthen the defence space.

Another MoU was signed with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to potentially launch start-up challenges in the future.

Tech challenges of army

Mr. Singh also released the Indian Army's compendium of 110 Problem Statements for indigenous defence research, design, development, and manufacturing ecosystem.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a start-up event at Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ANI

INBRIEF

Traffic advisory for airshow

Expecting large crowds at the Aero India-2023 at Airforce Station, Yelahanka, as it is opened to the general public, the traffic police have asked people to avoid Ballari road on February 16 and 17 and use alternative routes. Vehicles moving towards international airport and vehicles coming from the airport towards the city should compulsorily use the Hennur-Baglur road. The public who wish to visit Aero India show can avail parking facility at GKVK campus and also Jakkur campus. BMTC has arranged shuttle buses from parking lot to the venue of the airshow.

All type of goods vehicles and heavy vehicles except BMTC buses are banned on Ballari road from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Parking of all types of vehicles is prohibited on both sides of the road from Nagenahalli gate to the Ambiance Dhabha cross connecting to Bengaluru-Ballari road, on both sides of the road from Mekhri circle to Devanahalli of Bengaluru-Ballari road, on both sides of the ring road from Goraguntepalya to Hennur junction, from Reva college junction to Bagalur Cross on Bagalur main road, and the road from Nagavara junction to Bagaluru junction via Thanisandra main road.

HAL signs MoU with RPM for helicopter medical services

HAL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Response Plus Holding PJSC (RPM), a leading healthcare provider of emergency medical services, remote healthcare services, and occupational health solutions in the United Arab Emirates.

Veteran lashes out at Defence Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Col. Rajan (retd), convenor, Military Veterans Karnataka, has expressed anger and anguish over Defence Minister Rajnath Singh not turning up to inaugurate the National Military Memorial in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Mr. Singh was scheduled to inaugurate the memorial at 5.30 p.m. by laying wreaths at the Veeragallu (hero stone) and about over 100 ex-servicemen and a dozen Veer Naaris (widows of soldiers) had gathered and were awaiting for the arrival of the Defence Minister.

Col. Rajan said they were informed at around 3.30 p.m., by the Director of Karnataka Rajya Sainik Welfare and Resettlement, that the inaugural function had been cancelled.

'Mindset of politicians'

"This act of Mr. Singh is a reflection of the mindset of politicians in India who have scant or no regard or respect for soldiers who lay down their lives for the country, ex-servicemen who have given the prime of their youth to the nation; and widows of soldiers who have laid down their lives for the country in wars and in counter-insurgency operations in J&K and in the States of the North-East," he said.

Children from underprivileged communities witness show

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first, more than 2,500 students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society hailing from Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and Backward class communities from various remote parts of Karnataka, have been given an opportunity to witness the Aero India 2023 show.

A defence release said the opportunity left an indelible mark in the minds of the students, inspiring and motivating them to pursue their dreams and ambitions in the aerospace industry.

Joint initiative

On Tuesday, 150 students hailing from the Valmiki Ashrama School, Ambedkar Vasati Shaale, and Valmiki Vasathi Shaale from Bengaluru Rural areas witnessed the extravaganza.

This joint initiative of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka, with the Indian Air Force is a defining moment for more than 2,500 children from about 300 government residential schools to open their minds and use this platform as a runway to soar to newer heights, the release said.

150 students from Valmiki Ashrama School, Ambedkar Vasathi Shaale, and Valmiki Vasathi Shaale at the show.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 16	
RISE 06:42	SET 18:25
RISE 02:44	SET 14:17
FRIDAY, FEB. 17	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:26
RISE 03:49	SET 15:23
SATURDAY, FEB. 18	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:26
RISE 04:52	SET 16:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	20
Mysuru	32	13
Bengaluru	33	16

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Garuda Aerospace unveils SURAJ

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Garuda Aerospace unveiled SURAJ, a solar-powered unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) aerial J-Glider at the Aero India 2023 show on Wednesday.

SURAJ is an ISR high-altitude drone designed specifically for surveillance operations, providing real-time information to the high command, and protecting jawans on the ground, as per the drone firm. "SURAJ will have ISR capability and will be equipped with Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and bionic chip for advanced real-time processing," said Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder & CEO, Garuda Aerospace.

TMB Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
Be a step ahead in life

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD.,
Regd. Office: 57, V.E. Road,
Thoothukudi - 628002
CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908

NOTICE

Members may note that the Board of Directors of the Bank, in its meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, has declared an Interim Dividend of Rs.5/- (Rupees five only) per share, i.e. 50% on the fully paid up equity shares of Rs 10/- each, for the financial year 2022-2023. Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the record date for the dividend has been fixed as Friday, February 24, 2023.

The Interim Dividend will be paid to those equity shareholders of the Bank, whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Bank as on 24th February, 2023. The Interim Dividend will be paid on or after 6th March 2023.

The interim dividend income is taxable in the hands of the members and the Bank is required to deduct Tax at Source ("TDS") from the dividend to be paid to the members at prescribed rates as per the Income Tax Act,1961 ("IT Act"). To enable the Bank to apply correct TDS rates, the members are requested to furnish the prescribed documents on the portal (https://web.linkintime.co.in/formsreg/submission-of-form-15g-15h.html) of the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA) on or before Sunday, February, 26, 2023 (06:00 PM IST).

Members are also requested to intimate changes, if any, pertaining to their postal address, email ID, Mobile numbers, Bank account details, etc., to their respective DPs, in case, the shares are held by them in Dematerialized form and to the RTA (https://web.linkintime.co.in/EmailReg/Email_Register.html) in case of shares held in physical form.

The said notice is also available in our website www.tmb.in.

For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
S/d
Prakash Chandra Panda
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer.

Place : Thoothukudi
Date : 15.02.2023

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5193, 5093, 5086, Fax: (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Running & Service charges for carrying out the improvements for the Horticultural works for one year in LEOS Campus, Aryabhata, ISRAD Building & Guest House, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LAM-21 Dtd: 14.02.2023 **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 64.92Lakhs EMD Rs: 1,29,837/- Period of Completion in months :** 12 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 16.02.2023 **Closing Date :** 01.03.2023

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Periodical upkeep of internal/external environs in LEOS Campus, Aryabhata Building, ISRAD Building & Guest House, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LAM-20 Dtd: 14.02.2023 **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 149.72Lakhs EMD Rs: 2,99,445/- Period of Completion in months :** 12 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 16.02.2023 **Closing Date :** 01.03.2023

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG) URSC, BANGLAORE.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No. 5
Ron-582209 Ph & Fax : 08381-267247 Email : knnldiv5@gmail.com
No:KNNL/MRBC/DB/Tender /2022-23/856 Date : 14.02.2023

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Div No:05 Ron, the under under-signed invites tender on percentage basis from KPWD Class-I & above Contractors. The Tenderers are required to upload in Two cover both Technical bid and Financial bid, Technical bid should contain the documents as mentioned in Detailed Notification and Financial bid of those bidders who have paid the requisite EMD & fulfill the conditions contained in para1.1 will be opened. Table showing the details of work put to tender is as under;

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORK PUT TO E-TENDERING

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate amount put to tender Rs. (In Lakhs) (Exluding GST)	EMD Rs including GST	Tender Processing fee	Stipulated period for Completion	Class of Contractors
1)	CONSTRUCTION OF RAITA SAMUDAYA BHAVANAAT NAREGAL VILLAGE IN RON TALUK OF GADAG DISTRICT (I No-35629)	**84.63**	**2,00,000.00**	As per e - Procurement portal	9 Months (Including monsoon)	KPWD Class-I & above

Issue and submission of E-tender documents
(1) The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from **16.02.2023** at 11.00 am in the website http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in / eportal/index.seam link e-tender document and after payment (non-refundable) towards the transaction/tender processing fee. While applying the contractors can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal (2) The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **21.02.2023** at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No.05 Ron The queries if any are to be sent not later than on **21.02.2023** till 5.00 PM by the intending bidders through e-mail to the Executive Engineer (the e-mail id for sending queries is knnldiv5@gmail.com) (3) Last Date for Submission of completed e tendering documents is **24.02.2023** up to 4.00 PM. (4) First Electronic Document (Technical BID) will be opened on **27.02.2023** at 5.00 PM in the Presence of the Bidders who wish to participate. (5) Second Electronic Document (financial Bid) of the successful bidders who qualify in the technical bid wil be opened on **04.03.2023** at 11.00 AM or after approval to the technical bid from the competent authority.
Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/lines.seam and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Inch)
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/650/2022-23 KNNL, MRBCC Division, No-5, Ron

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INBRIEF

'Ban use of JCB, cranes to garland politicians'

Janata Dal (Secular) member Maritibbe Gowda demanded a ban on use of JCBs, cranes in political campaigns and other entertainment programmes to garland political leaders and other eminent personalities.

Raising the issue during the zero hour, the member said use of such heavy vehicles is in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act. "Fans of politicians, film and other eminent personalities illegally use JCBs and cranes amidst the crowds to garland their leaders. We have seen huge garlands of fruits, flowers, sugarcane, paddy, groundnuts, coconut, jaggery etc. being presented to the leaders using these vehicles. But using these vehicles amid crowds is in violation of rules," he said.

Pointing out that the police and government are mute spectators to such frenzy, he demanded a ban on the use of such vehicles for garlanding. "The Chief Minister should direct the Transport and Police Departments to stop such practices," he added.

Khader demands second language status to Tulu

Congress Deputy Leader in the Assembly U.T. Khader on Wednesday sought the status of second language to Tulu.

Participating in a debate on motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Assembly, Mr. Khader said Tulu was being spoken by a large number of people besides being the source of a rich cultural heritage. He urged the government to constitute a team to study the ways and means of giving such a status to Tulu.

BJP inflating and finalising tenders to raise money for elections, alleges Congress

Party cites letter by BJP MLA alleging irregularities and lack of transparency in the tender process for various boards, including Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Water Resources Department

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal, Siddaramaiah, and Saleem Ahmed at KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar's residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Congress leaders accused the Karnataka government of inflating tender costs and finalising them in a tearing hurry before the code of conduct kicks in for Assembly elections to be held in April-May. They said that they would raise this issue in the ongoing session of the legislature and also approach the court.

Addressing a joint media conference on Wednesday, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar alleged such activities in Public Works, Minor Irrigation, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Power and several other departments.

Letter by BJP MLA

The leaders cited the example of BJP's Hosadurga MLA Goolihatti Shekhar alleging irregularities and lack of transparency in the tender process for various boards, including Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) in the Department of Water Resources.

In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of the Department of Water Resources earlier this month, Mr. Shekhar had demanded that the government revoke tender work orders worth ₹22,200 crore in the Upper Bhadra Project citing lack of transparency and alleging irregularities.

"If the actual tender cost is ₹500 crore, it is being inflated to ₹1,000 crore. We are ready to provide proof. In some cases, this is happening with Cabinet approval, but in other cases, it is happening without Cabinet approval in a hurry within seven days," alleged Mr. Shivakumar.

Mr. Siddaramaiah called it a continuation of the "40% commission business" of the Basavaraj Bommai-led government. "Mr. Bommai keeps asking for proof every time we raise the corruption issue. Isn't the letter written by their own MLA proof of what is happening?"

Mr. Surjewala hit out at the BJP, accusing the ruling party of mobilising money and raising funds for elections through corruption. "We are warning all the people involved that when Congress comes into power, we will constitute an enquiry," he said.

Congress owes answer for scams during its time, says Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The scams of previous Congress government are being investigated by the Karnataka Lokayukta and they owe an explanation on those charges, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, hitting back at the Congress leaders who accused the current BJP dispensation of subterfuge in tendering process.

Replying to the corruption charges levelled against the State government by Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Mr. Bommai told presspersons: "The 40% commission charges are baseless and they have failed to produce evidence before court. Enquiry is guaranteed if they file the case with all the specifications. Without doing it, firing in the air will not help," he said.

'Casual letter'

The Chief Minister argued the letter by BJP MLA Gulhatti Shekhar, alleging corruption in tendering process by Minor Irrigation Department, was "casual" but he had been asked to give specific details to get it enquired into.

"If any officer is involved in corruption it would be enquired into immediately. Making statements without giving evidence is of no use," he said.

"The Congress ruled for five years and they also had called tenders. After the BJP came to power a committee headed by a judge to go through all those tenders was set up and everything is now being scrutinised. Now tender process is very transparent and any one can give complaint," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Bommai said when Mr. Shivakumar was the Water Resources Minister, the tender inspection committee was removed as well as TAC.

The two-level inspection system was shelved in the corporation. The Congress had opened the avenues for corruption but the BJP government has re-established the inspection system, the Chief Minister claimed.

JD(S) seeks withdrawal of Jain University's deemed-to-be status

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K. Annadani of the JD(S) on Wednesday told the Legislative Assembly that Bengaluru-based Jain (deemed-to-be) University students had insulted Dalit icon B.R. Ambedkar by staging a controversial skit at the university fest, and demanded that the State government withdraw the deemed-to-be status given to the university.

Controversial skit

Mr. Annadani raised the issue during the Zero Hour and condemned the controversial skit. Some students were arrested in this connection, he said, and demanded action against those who allowed staging of the skit.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said there was no question of giving protection to anyone who had insulted Ambedkar. Steps would be taken to ensure prevention of such incidents in the future, he said.

Dharna staged

The JD(S) member staged a dharna before the Speaker seeking cancellation of deemed-to-be status given to the university. Bandeppa Kashempur (JD-S) and U.T. Khader (Congress) too extended their support to Mr. Annadani.

Mr. Madhuswamy said the government would seek a report about the incident and take action against the management members if they were found involved. Later, the JD(S) member withdrew the agitation.

The Siddapura police, who had registered a case under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, acting on a complaint from a Social Welfare Department official, have arrested seven students, dean of the college, and the chief programme coordinator on Monday.

Shettar takes Sudhakar to task for delaying doctors' appointment at KIMS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP member Jagadish Shettar speaking in the Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Senior BJP member and former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar on Wednesday took Minister for Health and Family Welfare K. Sudhakar to task for slow clearance of files related to appointment of doctors at Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Hubballi, and the Government's Medical College at Haveri.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the joint session of the State legislature, Mr. Shettar said appointment of 30 doctors at KIMS has been pending for several months owing to slow clearance of files related to the recruitment by Mr. Sudhakar.

Appointment of 30 doctors at KIMS and 70 doctors at the Government's Medical College Haveri has been pending for several months. The provisional list had been announced several months ago, but the final notification had not been issued for appointment of doctors at KIMS, Mr. Shettar said.

KIMS has been catering to 60% of patients of Hubballi-Dharwad and 40% of patients from the north Karnataka region. Similarly, vacancies have existed at the medical college in Haveri, the home district of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Mr. Shettar said.

Later, Mr. Sudhakar said the appointment orders would be issued for recruitment of doctors at KIMS before the end of the current legislature session.

For auto drivers

Raising another issue, Mr. Shettar said there were close to 10 lakh autorickshaw drivers in the State and the government had to announce some social safety measures such as health insurance or compensation amount in case of accidental deaths. Autorickshaw drivers belonged to the unorganised sector and issuing labour cards to them by the Labour Department would help them in securing health insurance and other facilities, he suggested.

Minister cornered over beef supply to Goa from Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan was cornered when he was confronted by Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti as well as Opposition members when he sought more time to provide details about beef and buffalo meat supplied every day to Goa from Karnataka.

The Minister was also unable to provide details about the number of cattle fairs held in the State and the measures taken to check the spread of lumpy skin disease.

Prabhu Chavan was unable to provide details about the number of cattle fairs held in State and measures taken to check spread of lumpy skin disease

Mr. Chavan explained that he required a fortnight to provide the information as it had to be collected from each taluk in coordination with the Revenue Department. Surprised, Mr. Horatti asked him if the house would run for 15 days. "Provide the details before the session ends.," he said.

Opposition members K. Harish Kumar from Congress and K.A. Thippeswamy from the JD(S) expressed displeasure over this and sought to know why the response had not been collated although the questions were submitted 10 days ahead of the session. Intervening, another JD(S) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda questioned what the officials were doing. "This information should be readily available," he said.

The subject was closed after the Chairman asked the Minister to provide the details by next week before the session ends.

BJP's rath yatras to commence on March 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the BJP's rath yatras from four directions of the State will commence from March 1, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday called upon the poll in-charge leaders of all the Assembly constituencies to dedicate their time and energy completely for the yatras.

Addressing a workshop of the party's poll in-charge leaders in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister asked them to ensure participation of a large number of people in these yatras.

Meeting beneficiaries

Stating that the government had touched upon all communities in terms of welfare measures, the Chief Minister advised the party leaders to contact the beneficiaries under various schemes and try to turn them into party volunteers. Claiming that the party government had done well in handling COVID-19 as well as repeated floods that haunted the State, he called upon leaders to create awareness among people about such achievements. He particularly asked them to highlight the Jal Jeevan Mission of supplying drinking water to the houses through taps by drinking a glass of water at the houses of beneficiaries.

He also asked the leaders to create awareness about Karnataka being able to reach the second position in the country in GST collection and also its revenue collection. Accusing the Congress of trying to hijack various schemes, he alleged that Congress was trying to project Anna Bhagya as its own scheme though the scheme got a majority share from the Centre.

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION,
ODISHA KRUSHI BHAWAN, BHUBANESWAR

Notice No. 397/DE/Agril., Date : 15.02.2023

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited in two bid system i.e. Technical bid & Financial bid from reputed Manufacturers / MSME Units for procurement & supply Mini Dal Mills (As per details in Annexure-1) to selected WSHG/FPO/FPCs/SHGs/FPOs/FPCs in different districts of Odisha. The details of the machines to be supplied and Cost of EoI document are indicated in the following table :

Sl. No.	Name of the Post-Harvest Machine to be procured and supplied	Approximate nos. to be procured and supplied	Cost of EoI document
1.	Mini Dal Mill with Single Phase, 1 HP Electric Motor (as per specification in Annexure-1A)	220 nos.	Rs.10000.00 + Rs.1800.00 (GST), Non-refundable.

The EoI documents can be downloaded from the website of Government of Odisha (**www.odisha.gov.in / https//agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in**) from **16.02.2023 to 02.03.2023**. The cost of EoI documents is Rs.10000/- + 18% GST to be deposited in shape of Bank Draft drawn in favour of "Development Engineer, OFMRDC, Bhubaneswar" payable at Bhubaneswar. The EoI documents may be sent through **registered post/ speed post/Courier** only addressed to the Development Engineer OFMRDC, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007. The last date of receipt of the EoI documents is **03.03.2023 up to 5:00 P.M.** The Technical Bid submitted in the EoI documents shall be opened on next working day i.e. on **04.03.2023 at 3:00 P.M.** in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. Any clarification may be obtained from the Office of the Development Engineer (**Mobile No.9778312631**) on working days only from **16.02.2023 to 02.03.2023** during office hours between 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. .The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason and without incurring any liabilities thereof. The undersigned also reserves the right to relax any clauses as in technical & financial bids.

Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

L-132: OIPR-01051/11/0010/2223

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North-West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/2326/2022-23 Date: 14.02.2023	Rs. 39,74,011/- / Rs. 79,500/-	22.02.2023 upto 04:00 pm	23.02.2023 after 04:30 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2)	
2	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/1827/2022-23 Date: 13.02.2023	Rs. 81,27,067/- / Rs. 1,62,600/-	27.02.2023 upto 03:00 pm	01.03.2023 after 03:00 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)	

Office of The Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

3	Kaveri (O&M-4)	BWSSB/EEK(O&M)-4/PB/405/2022-23 Date: 14.02.2023	Rs. 65,45,610/- / Rs. 1,54,000/-	02.03.2023 upto 04:00 pm	03.03.2023 at 04:05 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M-4)	

Office of The Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

4	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2590/2022-23 Date: 14.02.2023 (2nd Call)	1 Rs. 21,48,382/- / Rs. 50,000/- ; 2 Rs. 43,48,038/- / Rs. 86,965/-	02.03.2023 upto 04:00 pm	04.03.2023 after 05:00 pm
5		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2592/2022-23 Date: 14.02.2023	1 Rs. 29,10,042/- / Rs. 58,210/- ; 2 Rs. 27,59,128/- / Rs. 55,190/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2594/2022-23 Date: 14.02.2023	Rs. 5,57,265.21 / Rs. 13,950/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)	

The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/4727/2022-23

INBRIEF

Narrow escape for passengers as Godavari Express derails

Passengers on board the Godavari Express coming from Visakhapatnam had a narrow escape from a potential major accident when the last six bogies of the train derailed between Bibinagar and Ghatkesar stations about 40 km from Secunderabad station on Wednesday. The unanimous opinion among the officials is that the German designed Linke Hofmann Busch coaches had prevented what could have been a big tragedy as 'normal' coaches could have climbed onto each other leading to heavy casualties.

'JSW steel plant project start of industrial revolution in A.P.'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has claimed that the State is in for an industrial revolution and called the JSW steel plant project as the beginning. He participated in the 'bhoomi puja' ceremony of the much-awaited Kadapa steel plant at Sunnapurallapalli village in Jammalamadugu constituency on Wednesday. The event was conducted on a low-key, in view of the election code.

Two-day Global Tech Summit to begin in Vizag today

The series of G-20 tech and business events will begin with the two-day Global Tech Summit (GTS) in Visakhapatnam from Thursday. The GTS may bring many persons from the technology, pharma and agriculture industries to discuss the latest trends and advancements prevailing across the globe. Nearly 1,000 delegates from more than 25 countries will attend, says Srinubabu Gedela, CEO, Pulsus Group and GTS co-convener.

Coimbatore and Mangaluru blasts: NIA searches 40 places

The agency carries out simultaneous searches in 3 States — Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka; seizes a large number of digital devices and cash to the tune of ₹4 lakh; arrests no one

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday carried out simultaneous searches at 40 locations in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka as part of its investigations into last year's car explosion in Coimbatore on October 23 and the pressure cooker blast in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru on November 19, 2022.

The NIA said that the searches led to the seizure of a large number of digital devices and cash to the tune of ₹4 lakh. An official privy to the searches said that the agency did not arrest anyone.

NIA officers searching a house at Kottaimedu in Coimbatore on Wednesday as part of the 2022 car blast case. M. PERIASAMY

Searchers were carried out at 31 locations in Tamil Nadu and at one location in Ernakulam in Kerala in connection with the car explosion that took place in front of the Sangameswarar temple at Kottaimedu in Coimbatore in the early hours of October 23, 2022. In Ernakulam district, the agency searched the Aluva house of a money-lender.

The places searched in Tamil Nadu were in Coimbatore (14), the Nilgiris (2), Tirunelveli (3), Chennai (3), Thiruvannamalai (2), and one place each in Tiruchi, Thoothukudi, Dindigul, Mayiladuthurai, Krishnagiri, Kanyakumari and Tenkasi.

The agency has arrested 11 persons in the car blast case so far. The suspected key conspirator, Jameesha Mubin, was killed in the blast.

Three locations in Tiruppur and Coimbatore, four places in Ernakulam and one place in Mysuru were searched by the NIA as part of its investigation into the pressure cooker bomb/IED blast that took place in a moving autorickshaw in Mangaluru on November 19, 2022.

Submit report on action taken by police under anti-beggary law: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to submit report on how the police at the grassroots level are taking action in arresting persons for indulging in begging, which is prohibited as per the Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the directions while hearing a PIL petition, filed in 2020 by Letszkit Foundation, Bengaluru, which had raised the issue of forcing children to sell flowers and toys on streets.

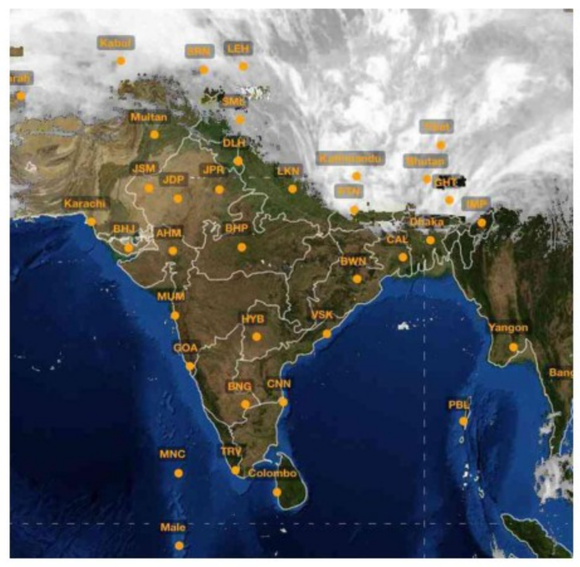
The Bench issued the direction after the State government admitted that there was not enough awareness among the police at the grassroots level on Section 11 of the Act, which states that any police officer who finds a person other than a child contravening the provisions of Section 3 shall arrest such person and inform him about the grounds for such arrest and remove him immediately to the nearest receiving centre.

The government on Wednesday told the court that the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police in December 2022 and January 2023 issued communication to the regional police heads, the heads of police commissionerates, and the superintendents of police of the districts on creating awareness.

Noticing that the State Police Chief has now given instruction to the staff to take action under Section 11, the Bench directed the government to submit report on how the police at grassroots level is acting on such instruction.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.1	11.8	Kozhikode	—	34.6	23.1
Ahmedabad	—	35.9	13.0	Kurnool	—	36.7	16.8
Aizawl	—	28.4	6.0	Lucknow	—	26.4	10.8
Allahabad	—	27.4	10.4	Madurai	—	34.6	20.8
Bengaluru	—	32.5	15.8	Mangaluru	—	33.4	22.8
Bhopal	—	29.0	10.7	Mumbai	—	34.0	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.5	15.9	Mysuru	—	33.3	16.0
Chandigarh	—	29.6	13.6	New Delhi	—	27.7	10.9
Chennai	—	33.1	20.6	Patna	—	26.0	11.2
Coimbatore	—	33.8	19.0	Port Blair	—	30.3	20.2
Dehradun	—	24.6	8.3	Puducherry	—	—	—
Gangtok	—	16.0	8.3	Pune	—	33.9	13.4
Goa	—	34.2	19.0	Raipur	—	33.5	15.8
Guwahati	—	28.2	11.8	Ranchi	—	26.3	10.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	18.0	Shillong	—	17.0	7.5
Hyderabad	—	34.2	16.0	Shimla	—	20.2	9.8
Imphal	—	27.7	10.6	Srinagar	—	15.0	-0.2
Jaipur	—	31.8	13.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.5	21.9
Kochi	—	32.2	23.2	Tiruchi	—	32.5	20.0
Kohima	—	20.4	8.8	Vijayawada	—	34.6	20.0
Kolkata	—	28.4	13.7	Visakhapatnam	—	31.8	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.30	207	80	... 150	...146	
Bengaluru	...7	..35	28	... 113	...107	
Chennai	.20	..41	57	... 197	...123	
Delhi	.20	123	34	... 306	...199	
Hyderabad	.44	..64	16	... 127	...132	
Kolkata	.20	..51	42	... 213	...226	
Lucknow	.16	..49	83	... 199	...177	
Mumbai	.49	152	76	... 390	...235	
Pune	..—	..23	38	... 233	...147	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..52	47	... 206	...247	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 358 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 33

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sivasankar in ED custody for 5 days

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday night in connection with the LIFE Mission case. He was sent to the agency's custody on Wednesday for five days.

The investigation agency, which had sought the custody of the former bureaucrat for 10 days, was asked by the CBI Judge to take Mr. Sivasankar back to the court on Monday.

In its arrest report, the ED alleged that Mr. Sivasankar was guilty of the offence of money laundering by concealing the proceeds of the crime, its possession and acquisition.

₹100 coin featuring N.T. Rama Rao to be released

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Government of India Mint will bring out a commemorative ₹100 silver coin featuring the image of the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N.T. Rama Rao on the occasion of his centenary birth anniversary on May 28.

The coin will not be in circulation in the market since this will be a commemorative metal piece issued on specific occasions.

However, it will be sold as a collective by the Mint.

Many cultural icons like M.S Subbulakshmi and others have made it to the coin in the past.

An official announcement about the release of the coin on NTR will be made by the Centre soon, the sources said.

NTR's daughter and former Union Minister Purandeswari had disclosed at her father's birth anniversary last year that the family was in touch with the Reserve Bank of India to launch the coin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that, my client is negotiating to purchase **The Printing and Related Machineries with Entire Unit** of **M/s. Shubhodaya Printers** from its proprietor **Mrs. Girish Shyamala W/o Late.Girish.M,** R/at No.92/2, Pipe Line west, Kasturibanagar, Mysore Road, Bengaluru- 560026. Hence interested persons, if any having, right, interest, share or claim on the above said property they may file their objections along with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 10 days from this day. Failure to which, it is deemed that there is no any claim or objections towards the said property from anybody and accordingly my client will proceed to purchase the same.

Bengaluru
Date:16.02.2023
H.V. SHYAME GOWDA
Advocate
No.104, 5th 'C' Main, Hampinagar, R.P.C. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104
Phone No.9845145223

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Prof. K. Rajaiah
(1939-2018)

You have left a legacy of compassion, love, wisdom and courage. We will always be guided by your golden words of advice and strengthened by your blessings. We cherish every precious moment spent together. Your spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

Deeply missed and mourned by
Latha, Vijay, Ramani, Shravan, Tanmay, family and friends.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/4059-SCP-TSP/2022-23/8460/ Dated : 13-02-2023

E-Tender Notification

On 13-02-2023 through E-Procurement tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 164672 & 164195 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **28-02-2023** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. **Sd/- (K.Ramesh) Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri**

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/541/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/MWD/SD1/22-23/7872-76 **Date: 09.02.2023**

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(c) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

1. Approximate project cost: ₹1749.23 Lakhs
2. Name of the work: Establishing of 1x10 MVA, 110/11kV substation at Kuppagadde and construction of 110kV SC line on DC tower from 110KV Thogarsi sub-station to proposed 110KV Kuppagadde sub-station for a distance of 11.648 Kms in Soraba Taluk, Shivamogga District and 110KV Terminal bay at 110/11KV Thogarsi sub-station in Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District on TTK Basis.
3. Approximate Length of 110KV Line: 11.648 Kms.
4. Proposed 110KV Line passing through areas:-

District: Shivamogga	
Taluk : Shikaripura	**Hobli : Talagunda**
Village	**Survey No.**
Thogarsi	96, 91, 92, 81, 82, 83, 80
Taluk : Soraba	**Hobli : Kuppagadde**
Guduginakoppa	32, 33 34, 35, 6, 3, 2, 121, 122, 119, 117, 116, 115, 114, 112, 111, 105, 91, 92, 88, 89, 86, 74, 80, 79, 78, 77, 40
Kanakoppa	85
Udri	164, 224, 108, 103, 109, 110, 102, 100, 101, 99, 98, 6, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 55, 54, 53, 52, 51, 50, 49, 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, 41, 40, 39, 18, 86, 17
Kuppagadde	85, 78

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the office of Executive Engineer Ele., Major Works Division, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Shivamogga within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Major works Division, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, B.H. Road, Shivamogga-577203.

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores And Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 12 Dated: 15.02.2023

Tenders (Pre-qualification or commercial offers)through e-procurement portal (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**) are invited for supply the following goods/Servises/Equipments:

Tender No	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/Equipments	Tender Value in crores Rs.(Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @17.00Hrs
G-98/22-23	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Major Garage equipment's on turnkey basis	4.60	20.03.2023
G-99 /22-23	Procurement of Densified Wooden Floor Board	2.00	20.03.2023
G-100/22-23	Procurement of Cotton Waste	1.50	02.03.2023
G-101/22-23	Bus Body Building items required for Regional Workshops	0.50	02.03.2023
G-102/22-23	Procurement of Papers, Boards, Printing Inks, Printing Plates, Blankets, Chemicals, Binding Materials, and Other Office Stationery required for KST Press	0.50	02.03.2023
G-103/22-23	Implementation of Accounting & Financial Management System Cloud ERP Software	0.16	20.03.2023
A-34/22-23	Procurement of Wiper Motor, Blades & Arms	6.00	20.03.2023
A-35/22-23	Procurement of Shackle Pins & Bushes	2.00	20.03.2023
	SHORT TERM TENDER		
G-97/22-23	Procurement of Tyre, Tube & flap sets, Tubeless Radial tyre and Additional Tubes & flaps	95.20	01.03.2023

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone.No. 080-22230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at **cosp@ksrtc.org**, (contact: 7760990225,7760990224)

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/4733/2022-23

Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of The Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No. 3, Bhadra Canal Division, Malebennur – 577530. Ph./Fax: 08192-200255
e-mail: eeknnlmbr@gmail.com

No: EE/ KNNL/BCD-3/MBR /4701/ Tender Notification No:11 &12 / 1547&1548 /2022-23, Dt:14.02.2023

Short-Term Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer, KNNL., No.3 Bhadra canal Division, Malebennur invites Percentage tender on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bengalore for the following works. The tenders are invited through **(http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** and in two tender document system as per KTPP Act-2000 consisting of Two tender document ie, first electronic document (Technical Bid) and second electronic document (Financial Bid) Name of work and Head of Account:- 1) HEAD OF ACCOUNT-4701-BHADRA, Indent No-35681- Building Development works . No of works:- 1. Amount put to tender (Rs.in Lakh):- 198.32 Class of Contractor:- KPWD Class-III & above (2) HEAD OF ACCOUNT -4701-TSP, Indent No-35802- Construction of valmiki Bhavan No of works:- 1, Amount put to tender (Rs.in Lakh):- 297.86 Class of Contractor:- KPWD Class-II & above
Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Access to tender document and submission of completed tender form **16.02.2023 to 27.02.2023 up to 4.00PM** 2) Pre-Bid meeting date:1office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, no.3 Bhadra Canal Division, Malebennur **23.02.2023 at 12.00PM** 3) Last Date and time for submission of completed tender **27.02.2023 @ 4.00PM** 4) Opening of 1st Electronic document (Technical Bid) **28.02.2023 @ 4.01PM** 5) Opening of 2nd Electronic document (Financial Bid) After obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority, the financial bid will be opened. For further information Contact to this office **08192-200255** in office hours

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/911/ಕೆಎನ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No. 3, Bhadra Canal Division, Malebennur.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
No.1 Buildings Division, S.J.P. Campus, Bengaluru.
Ph: 080-22255210, Fax: 080-22250755, e-mail: eebld1@yahoo.com

IFT No: EE/Bld1/JE-3/56/2022-23 **Date: 15-02-2023**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

1) The Executive Engineer, No.1, Buildings Division, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers have to submit the tender for the work given in the Table through e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (Standard Tender Document - KW-3).** **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **upto 22-02-2023. 3)** Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the work in the Table below. Earnest money deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the Tender document and shall have to be valid for **45 days beyond** the validity of the tender. **4)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement portal **on or before 16.00 hours on 22-02-2023** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-Procurement portal guidelines. **5)** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Name of work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)
Providing Interiors and Furnishing to Conference Hall at Ground Floor, Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru. **KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT164668**	76.59	1,53,200/-

Cost of Document (in Rs.): **As per e-Portal**
Period of Completion: **4 Months (including rainy season)**
No. of Call: **1st Call**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
No.1, Buildings Division, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4725/Adverto/2022-23

A BG-BGE

Brazen intimidation

Actions such as the tax survey on BBC are meant to produce a chilling effect

It is difficult not to see the Income Tax (I-T) department's two-day survey of the BBC's offices in New Delhi and Mumbai as an attempt to produce a chilling effect on Britain's well regarded public broadcaster and also media institutions willing to hold the current regime to account for past actions. The survey's officials said they were investigating charges related to "transfer pricing" and "diversion of profits". However, the fact that the action came in the wake of the release of the two-part documentary, *India: the Modi Question*, raises significant questions. That journalists were also subjected to what is essentially an accounting/financial survey can only be interpreted as an act of intimidation of media personnel. Besides, this also follows actions by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, which had, not too long ago, issued overzealous orders to online media platforms to disable links to the first part of the documentary by invoking emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021 and Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, and later blocking tweets with links to it. The reactions by BJP spokespersons – one called the BBC a "corrupt" corporation – only adds to the impression that this is an effort at de-legitimising the work done by critical media outlets. The survey of the BBC is not an exception if similar exercises in the past are considered: at the digital news organisation Newslaundry in 2021, the CBI's raid of NDTV in 2017, and the Enforcement Directorate's searches of digital portal Newsclick and I-T searches of the Dainik Bhaskar group, both in 2021. Last year, the digital media-funding Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation and the think tank, Centre for Policy Research, had such "surveys". The unmistakable and common link is that the media organisations have published content critical of the Union government.

India's claim as a developing nation and a growing economy in a globalised world is that it is a flourishing democracy with constitutionally guaranteed institutional freedoms and separation of powers and is unlike authoritarian regimes that have promoted economic prosperity but do not play by institutional rules and values. Core to this is the idea of the freedom of the press in holding those in power to account. Even if media organisations raise uncomfortable questions, the response has to be factual, reasonable and measured. The reaction to the BBC's documentary has been anything but that. In trying to block access to the documentary, the government came across as ham-fisted and now, with this survey at the BBC offices, it comes across as intimidating. This does not augur well for India's global image, but worse, it is a clear threat to existing freedoms of the country's citizens.

Beyond limits

The real issues in J&K are statehood and special status, more than delimitation

The gulf between legality and political legitimacy can be quite substantial. The Supreme Court verdict upholding the constitution of a Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir and the subsequent delimitation exercise is indeed in line with the law, especially the constitutional provisions that empower Parliament to form new States, alter existing ones, and change their status and boundaries, as well as the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. However, it will be wrong to see it as granting judicial imprimatur to the political import of the redrawing of constituencies in the Union Territory. Most political parties in J&K, which was downgraded to Union Territory status in August 2019, have opposed the Commission's report that added six seats in Jammu division and one in Kashmir division to take the total number of seats to 90. The parties see in the exercise an attempt to weaken the Muslim majority region's political and electoral significance and boost the prospects of parties with a base in Jammu. They consider this as an extension of the project to strip J&K of its status and privileges and repurpose its politics to the advantage of the ruling party. This question of legitimacy can be answered by the outcome of an election, if and when one is held, to the territorial legislature. However, the readjustment of boundaries may by itself cast a shadow on that process too.

The petition that challenged the formation of the Delimitation Commission was a belated one, as it was filed after the panel published its draft order. The Court brushed aside its key contention that the delimitation has been frozen throughout the country until after the first Census held after 2026, noting that Article 170, which deals with this, applies only to States, and not Union Territories. It has also noted that J&K will be governed by its own reorganisation law, which allows the 2011 Census to be the basis for its delimitation, unlike the rest of the country, where the 2001 census was the basis for the last redrawing of constituency boundaries. It also rejected arguments rooted in the idea that some provisions of the Reorganisation Act were not consistent with the Constitution, noting that these provisions had not been specifically challenged. While the Court may be right in upholding the formation of the delimitation panel, the extensions given to it, and its decision based on laws currently assumed to be valid, the impression is inescapable that the people of J&K are being presented with a *fait accompli* on matters concerning their political destiny, as long as the core question – the validity of the withdrawal of its statehood and special status in 2019 – remains undecided.

A manifesto for tackling the silent pandemic of AMR

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

is former Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization

While the world is emerging from the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the very harmful but invisible pandemic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is unfortunately here to stay. Most countries understood in 2020 the clear and present danger of COVID-19, forcing governments, including India's, to respond with speed and accuracy. The rapidly rising AMR rates also need an accelerated, multi-sectoral, global and national response.

In recent decades, while new drugs have revolutionised human health care, health experts have been struggling with disease-causing microbes that have become resistant to drugs. Global public health response has been threatened due to rising misuse and overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals.

Microbial resistance to antibiotics has made it harder to treat infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), blood-poisoning (septicaemia) and several food-borne diseases. AMR also imposes a huge health cost on the patient in the form of longer hospitalisation, health complications and delayed recovery. It puts patients undergoing major surgeries and treatments, such as chemotherapy, at a greater risk. Many times, patients recover from advanced medical procedures but succumb to untreatable infections.

In 2019, AMR was associated with an estimated 4.95 million human deaths. A 2018 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) warned of a phenomenal increase, by 2030, of resistance to back-up antibiotics (second and third-line).

AMR adds to the burden of communicable diseases and strains the health systems of a country. An Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study in 2022 showed that the resistance level increases from 5% to 10% every year for broad-spectrum antimicrobials. An Indian Network for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (INSAR) study indicated a high rate of resistance to commonly used drugs such as ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, co-trimoxazole, erythromycin and clindamycin.

India and the Muscat conference

As the current G-20 president, and as a country vulnerable to this silent pandemic, India's role is critical in ensuring that AMR remains high on the global public health agenda.

India's commitment to the cause was evident at the Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (November 24-25, 2022) held in Muscat, where over 30 countries adopted the Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on AMR.

> As the current G-20 president, and as a vulnerable country, India has a key role in ensuring that AMR remains high on the global health agenda

The Muscat Manifesto recognised the need to accelerate political commitments in the implementation of One Health action for controlling the spread of AMR. It also recognised the need to address the impact of AMR not only on humans but also on animals, and in areas of environmental health, food security and economic growth and development.

The conference focused on three health targets: reduce the total amount of antimicrobials used in the agri-food system at least by 30-50% by 2030; eliminate use in animals and food production of antimicrobials that are medically important for human health; and ensure that by 2030 at least 60% of overall antibiotic consumption in humans is from the WHO "Access" group of antibiotics.

In her address, India's Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, said that AMR was a serious global health threat and could not be "overshadowed by other competing public health priorities".

India has committed to strengthening surveillance and promoting research on newer drugs. It also plans to strengthen private sector engagement and the reporting of data to the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) and other standardised systems.

High levels of resistance

WHO has increasingly expressed concern about the dangerously high levels of antibiotic resistance among patients across countries. Take the example of ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic commonly used to treat urinary tract infections. According to WHO, resistance to ciprofloxacin varied from 8.4% to 92.9% for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and from 4.1% to 79.4% for *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (a bacteria that can cause life-threatening infections such as pneumonia and intensive care unit- related infections). The global epidemic of TB has been severely impacted by multidrug resistance – patients have less than a 60% chance of recovery.

The Muscat Manifesto appears to respond to the AMR crisis by setting these three ground-breaking targets. The manifesto encourages countries to prioritise their national action plans for AMR keeping the One Health approach. The One Health approach requires all stakeholders to work together towards an integrated programme linking challenges of humans, terrestrial and aquatic animal, plant health, food and feed production and the environment. This approach will enable the world to effectively prevent, predict and detect the health crisis induced by AMR. Tackling AMR requires constant monitoring of antibiotic consumption, identifying the types and quantities of antibiotics being used.

There is also an urgent need to reduce the usage of antimicrobials in the agri-food system. Scientific evidence suggests that the less antimicrobials are used, it is less likely that there will be an emergence of drug resistance. Countries such as the Netherlands and Thailand have decreased their usage by almost 50%. In China, the consumption of antibiotics in the agricultural sector has fallen substantially. The use of antibiotics in healthy animals to boost growth has also been reduced in the last decade in many countries.

From policy to the ground level

The National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2017-21) emphasised the effectiveness of the government's initiatives for hand hygiene and sanitation programmes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Kayakalp and Swachh Swasth Sarvatra. The government has also attempted to increase community awareness about healthier and better food production practices, especially in the animal food industry. The National Health Policy 2017 also offered specific guidelines regarding use of antibiotics, limiting the use of antibiotics as over-the-counter medications and banning or restricting the use of antibiotics for growth promotion in livestock. It also called for scrutiny of prescriptions to assess antibiotic usage in hospitals and among doctors. Everything in these policies now needs strong implementation on the ground.

The various G-20 health summits spread through 2023 offer an opportunity for India to ensure that all aspects of AMR are addressed and countries commit to progress. Some key areas for action are: surveillance – both phenotypic and genotypic – of priority pathogens and sharing of data, including through WHO's GLASS platform; regulatory and policy action to stop use of antibiotics that are important for human health in animals; no use of antibiotics for growth promotion in animals; more government investment in research and innovation for new antibiotics; explore use of vaccines to prevent certain infections due to AMR organisms in humans and animals; special focus on combating TB and drug-resistant TB.

India's Sri Lankan refugees need fair consideration

Oscar Mundia

is Chief of Mission, UNHCR India and The Maldives

It will soon be 14 years since the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. The three-decade war that ended in May 2009 devastated the once peaceful and prosperous nation. Many civilians perished and large sections had no choice but to flee; some within the country while others left for foreign lands having lost livelihoods and fearing for their lives. Many sought protection in India, among a population of identical ethnicity in Tamil Nadu. The vast majority travelled in boats and dinghies in desperation. They entered India in search of safety, many without travel documents and were received and hosted by the Government of India on humanitarian grounds.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in its 2021-2022 Annual Report states that 3,04,269 Sri Lankan refugees entered India between July 1983 and August 2012 and were provided relief including shelter, subsidised ration, educational assistance, medical care and cash allowances. In addition to the warm welcome provided, access to public education and health facilities embodies the Government of India's recognition of the needs of Sri Lankan refugees. Sustaining assistance for decades is an example of best practices under the aegis of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Slow progress

The end of the civil war renewed hope for this nation wrecked after years of ethnic strife and displacement. The Government of Sri Lanka constituted the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission in 2010 "to look back at the conflict Sri Lanka suffered as well as to look ahead for an era of healing and peace building in the country". Its observations and recommendations on human rights, international humanitarian law, land rights, resettlement and reconciliation are noteworthy.

Since the end of the civil war, the Government of Sri Lanka, and development partners initiated programmes in the Northern and Eastern provinces, with objectives of resettlement, restoration of critical infrastructure, livelihoods and social services to the local population. This led to significant improvements; the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), infrastructure development, expansion of agriculture and livelihoods. The government expenditure in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during 2009-18 is reported to be $3.8 billion with another $3.4 billion by development partners.

> A solution that provides relief from enduring refugee status is what is needed

Despite these efforts, several challenges remain, including lack of funds for recovery needs. The Easter Bombings in 2019 followed by COVID-19 slowed the development process, compounded by the economic and political crises in 2022. As in the latest World Bank Sri Lanka Update, "poverty has more than doubled over the past few years, and poverty and vulnerability will continue to rise without appropriate support".

Refugees in India

In India, 58,648 refugees are residing in 108 camps in Tamil Nadu while 54 are in Odisha. Another 34,135 refugees registered with Tamil Nadu authorities reside outside camps. The Government of India provided ₹1,226 crore for the relief and accommodation of refugees from July 1983 to March 31, 2022. However, the objective of the Government of India remains the repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka; 99,469 refugees were repatriated to Sri Lanka up to March 1995 and no organised repatriation was done thereafter.

Amongst them are 30,000 Persons of Indian Origin (also known as "Hill Tamils"). They have a claim to Sri Lankan citizenship *vide* the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements of 1964, 1974 and 1987 and amendments to the Grant of Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act of Sri Lanka. Lack of documents as well as a desire to continue in India differentiates them from other refugees. They may need special consideration and lie beyond 3.35 lakh people repatriated to India from October 1964 to December 2006, as in the MHA Report 2019-20.

Today, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India who wish to return voluntarily are being facilitated by the Government of Sri Lanka. Over the last year, 208 individuals have returned voluntarily, supported by the Government of India, bilateral donors and the UNHCR. Recent announcements, to commence ferry services to Kankensanthurai and direct flights to Jaffna from India (this has begun), will build confidence and aid those desirous of return.

The issue of voluntary return

Sri Lankan refugees in India are in a protracted situation, some for over four decades. At the UNHCR, we perceive voluntary return as the most desired choice to end refugee status. There is a significant population which may not wish to return, preferring to call India home. This is a cohort born and educated in India with no knowledge or experience of their country of origin. A solution that provides relief from enduring refugee status is the need of the hour.

India possesses the capacity and the legal framework to find durable solutions to the refugee situation in Tamil Nadu. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, India along with the international community has significantly contributed to building conditions within Sri Lanka for a safe and durable return.

The welfare of refugees including efforts towards self-reliance can be cited as global best practice. What remains is a solution for the group which may consider India to be their home after a stay of decades. They, above all, need fair consideration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Survey' of BBC's offices

Coming as it does close on the heels of the release of the documentary, *India: the Modi Question*, the motive behind the I-T team's "survey" of the BBC's offices in India is loud and clear notwithstanding the now familiar attempt by the ruling dispensation to project any criticism of it as a national affront (Page 1, February 15). The use of the term "survey" to camouflage the raid is laughable. The naked misuse of official machinery is to be perceived as a clear reflection of the creeping authoritarianism in the country and should be a matter of concern to all those who care for democratic and constitutional values. It is futile to expect the West , and this includes the U.K., to react as it is used to paying lip sympathy to democracy while continuing to prop up authoritarian figures when its self-interests are involved.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

The "survey" is an overaction. There are bound to be repercussions in having acted against an international organisation. India's heft on the world stage has only diminished.

J. Radhakrishna Kurup,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Let us hope that the I-T sleuths get some incriminating documents to justify their actions of having conducted a "survey" and the government of the day stands vindicated.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

The action has further strengthened the perception that the BJP-led central government does not tolerate any dissent or criticism which challenges its might. It would also ascribe everything expressed against the leader of the country as an affront to India itself. It is discomfiting that the establishment continues to believe that world opinion about India's sliding press freedom is hogwash.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

On the WPL

With the interest being shown by franchisees and broadcasters, the WPL is set to go places. There is hardly any difference between men and women cricketers when it comes to skills, so there is no reason why there should be any difference in the pay too.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the Opinion page article titled "Constitutional oath is not a mere formality" (Feb. 14, 2023) read: "Article 173, however, disqualifies a person with prior conviction from being a member of the Legislature." It should be corrected to Article 191.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Judges and the lure of 'political' jobs

A.P. Shah

is former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Former Chairperson, Law Commission of India

Within a month of retiring from the Supreme Court of India, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer has been appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Like many others, I believe it is no coincidence that he was a part of the Constitution Bench that decided the Ayodhya Ram Mandir land issue. In the tenure of the Narendra Modi-led government since 2014, he is the third Supreme Court judge who has received a high-profile political appointment soon after retirement, the other two being Justice P. Sathasivam (who was appointed Governor of Kerala), and Justice Ranjan P. Gogoi (who was appointed member of the Rajya Sabha).

These appointments are all signalling on the part of the government, letting the members of the higher judiciary know that they will be suitably rewarded if they issue favourable decisions. Dangling such a proverbial carrot is akin to corrupting the judges, and encouraging a culture of sycophancy even, as we are seeing among some judges in the apex court. Worse, this also makes the public have less faith in the judiciary itself. In 1980, Justice V. D. Tulzapurkar had said that "if judges start sending bouquets or congratulatory letters to a political leader on his political victory, eulogising him on assumption of high office in adulatory terms, the people's confidence in the judiciary will be shaken."

Chipping away at judiciary

While a Governor's position may seem largely ceremonial, it is in fact a squarely political appointment. In any event, this appears to be a part of the ruling party's strategic mission – a long game, if you will – to destabilise the judiciary, chipping away in small and big ways at various aspects of its functioning. If you step back and observe, the judiciary is slowly but surely being subtly weakened.

To be fair, this is not the first government that has ventured so far as to corrupt the judges in this fashion. Congress-led governments, notably under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, have done it too. But it is a cowardly defence that the Opposition party was equally guilty, and past precedent does not justify present transgressions. The larger objective, for any reasonable executive, should be to ensure the independence of the other arms of the governing mechanism, and that democratic values are preserved. However, a conclusively majoritarian mandate can make one heady with power, and compel the exploration of creative ways in which that power can be maintained and consolidated further. This is entirely the case with the Indian government today.

Hypocritical behaviour

The government's behaviour is also hypocritical for it is deliberately paying no heed to its own manifesto articulated by its late leader, Arun Jaitley, that such post-retirement judicial appointments should be avoided. In fact, 'inducing the judges' by such appointments was a specific allegation directed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the Congress-led coalition.

The judiciary is no less culpable in this situation. Ideally, I would like to believe that Indian judges are made of stronger stuff, and not ones to be seduced thus. Judges should show moral responsibility and character, as Justice Akil Kureishi most recently did. After being unceremoniously disregarded for elevation, and shoved across the country to various High Courts, upon retirement, he said that the government's stated 'negative perceptions' about him were a 'certificate of independence', and he was leaving the judiciary with 'his pride intact'.

Judges must recognise that handouts from the government, in the form of such political appointments, are not one-way: there is a giver and there is a receiver. The Indian judiciary must distinguish between political favours and other post-retirement employment opportunities.

Demarcation of roles

There needs to be a demarcation between roles where the presence of a judicial authority is clearly valuable and even necessary, such as in a tribunal or a commission, and where it is not. Justice Gogoi, upon his appointment to the Rajya Sabha, had famously proclaimed that he intended to bridge the gap between the judiciary and the legislature, but his attendance record and public participation in parliamentary affairs suggest nothing of the sort. Similarly, Justice Sathasivam had said he had wanted to serve the people in his role as Governor, but surely, he could have achieved the same objective through other appointments, that would be more befitting of someone who had held the office of the Chief Justice of India.

Ideally, the judicial community should take a concerted decision on this, say, in the Chief Justices' conference. The plenary should agree that judges should not take up any appointments upon retirement stemming from political patronage (with the nature of such appointments being clearly defined). Additionally, a cooling period of about two years should be considered a mandatory minimum before a judge agrees to take on any post-retirement adjudicatory role, in any case.

Justice Y.V. Chandrachud had said that the greatest danger to the judiciary lies within. Members of the judiciary cannot compromise independence by trading it for a plum post-retirement sinecure. When one becomes a judge, one signs up to fulfil a promise of ensuring a fair and independent judiciary; this promise cannot be compromised at any cost. Our judges need to be gently reminded of this unwritten contract they have with the Indian people.

Post retirement, the judicial community should take a concerted decision not to accept any job stemming from political patronage

Mamata and the Muslim conundrum

Trinamool wants to keep its Muslim support intact while pandering to Hindus

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh

Before every major election in West Bengal, the question of the Muslim vote comes to the fore. As the State gears up for the panchayat polls, this has again become a point of discussion in political circles.

The debate has heated up after the arrest of Indian Secular Front (ISF) MLA Naushad Siddique. In a House of 294 members, there are 43 Muslim MLAs – 42 belong to the Trinamool Congress; Mr. Siddique is the only Muslim MLA who does not represent either the Trinamool Congress or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Mr. Siddique represents the Bhangar Assembly constituency but draws his support from Furfura Sharif, a prominent religious shrine in Hooghly district. His brother Abbas Siddique, a *peer* (religious leader) at Furfura started the ISF before the 2021 Assembly polls. The ISF entered into an alliance with the Left Parties and the Congress, presenting a third alternative to the people of the State. However, in the highly polarised Assembly polls of 2021, the Left parties and the Congress drew a blank, and only Naushad Siddique was elected to the State Assembly.

Larger game afoot

On January 21 this year, as Naushad Siddique and his supporters were taken into custody, the ISF supporters first clashed with the Trinamool Congress at Bhangar and then with the police in Kolkata. Subsequently, several party workers were arrested.

Many believe that there is a larger politics at play behind these arrests. It is crucial for

the Trinamool to hold on to its Muslim support base in the State. Division of these votes may have an impact on the party's electoral prospects in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Therefore, any redistribution of the Muslim votes and the presence of parties such as the ISF is not good news for the Trinamool.

In Bengal, Muslims are not targeted for their religion. Also, the Trinamool Congress has vehemently opposed the proposals of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Yet, Muslims lack adequate political representation in the State Assembly and government jobs. A report by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's Pratichi Trust along with the Association SNAP and the Guidance Guild in 2016 pointed out that among the literate Muslims, only 2.7% had a graduate degree or higher. Only 17% of the Muslims in the State lived in urban settlements against the national average of 28%.

Muslims in the State did not have a voice during the Left Front's regime as well. The shift of the Muslim votes towards the Trinamool started after 2006 when the Sachar Committee report highlighted that the Muslims in West Bengal were worse off than their counterparts in most other States in terms of socio-economic indicators.

Over the past few years, Mamata Banerjee's politics has ventured towards soft Hindutva.. Her government has rolled out cash incentives for community Durga Pujas, released funds for upgrading temple infrastructure, and is organising Ganga Aartis. The Trinamool leadership has also remained silent on issues like the construction of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya and the triple talak issue. The party's decision to field Babul Supriyo, who was previously with the BJP and was the MP from Asansol when riots erupted in the city in 2018, from Ballygunge had also upset a section of Muslims.

Little option for Muslims

The ruling party believes that since Muslims cannot support the BJP they have little option but to vote for the Trinamool.

The arrest of Naushad Siddique has been criticised not only by the Left parties but also by the BJP that has so far not made any serious attempt to engage with the Muslim population in the State.

A section of civil society representatives has hit the streets in the city protesting against the arrest of the ISF MLA and slapping of several cases on him. " The Trinamool Congress is trying to intimidate the ISF by these arrests. It wants the ISF to join the Trinamool rather than oppose its politics," Prasenjit Bose, an economist and activist based in Kolkata, said.

In the midst of the politics around the ISF MLA's arrest, Muslims in West Bengal feel let down by both the ruling party and the Opposition, and is trying to discover an electoral voice that the community has been seeking for the past several decades.

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Off-Budget borrowings — a State-wise look

Unlike other States, Karnataka accounts its off-Budget loans in its debt calculation

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

While tabling the Budget a week ago, Telangana Finance Minister T. Harish Rao accused the Centre of "creating hurdles after hurdles" in the development of the State. He said that the State had resorted to off-Budget borrowings to complete irrigation projects in the shortest time but the Centre had imposed borrowing limits. This cut in borrowing limit, he argued, was against the "spirit of federalism".

Off-Budget borrowings are loans obtained by government entities, such as PSUs or special purpose vehicles, on behalf of the government to finance its expenditure. According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, these borrowings are not included while computing the debt and the fiscal deficit of the State governments. However, the State government is responsible for repaying the loan and servicing the debt from its Budget.

As extra-Budgetary borrowings find no mention in the Budget documents, one has to rely on the CAG reports to ascertain the figures. Five Southern States – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka – accounted for ₹2.34 lakh crore, around 93%, of the total off-Budget liabilities of eleven major States analysed.

As of March 2021, Telangana had the highest burden of such loans followed by Andhra Pradesh. Chart 1 shows the State-wise off-Budget borrowings by the end of March 2021 in rupees crore.

Andhra Pradesh had an off-Budget borrowing of ₹86,260 crore. The State's Civil Supplies Corporation accounted for 35% of the borrowing, while the Andhra Pradesh Power Finance Corporation's share was 18%. Chart 2 breaks down Andhra Pradesh's off-Budget borrowing undertaken by government-owned entities. The CAG's contention is that resorting to extra-budgetary resources will lead them to a debt trap.

"Fiscal rules related threshold deficit ratios and increasingly volatile intergovernmental transfers have affected the fiscal space of States. [Hence] they resort to OBB for financing [and] ...innovate alternative sources of financing.... For instance, Telangana has resorted to restructure the debt maturity. They postponed the refinancing risks by resorting to long term securities. Kerala has resorted to KIFFB (corporate entity) to engage in OBB for financing infrastructure," Lekha Chakraborty of the NIPFP told The Hindu.

In almost all States, if the off-Budget loans were added to their declared debt, it can take their debt-to-GSDP ratio even further away from State targets. Table 3 shows four ratios – debt-to-GSDP excluding off-Budget loans, debt-to-GSDP including off-Budget loans, off-Budget loans-to-debt, and finally State target for debt-to-GSDP.

Barring Karnataka, the debt-to-GSDP ratio exceeded the target in all States already. If off-Budget loans were also factored in, it raised a States' debt-to-GSDP ratio further.

For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, outstanding liabilities were 35.3% of the GSDP, which was slightly higher than State's target of 35%. But if the off-Budget borrowings were included, the State's debt-to-GSDP ratio shot up to 44%. Karnataka already accounts off-Budget borrowing in its debt calculation, unlike the others.

Further, the guarantees given by the States to PSUs and SPVs to raise loans or borrowings from banks have also been witnessing a rising trend. According to the data from an RBI paper that evaluates State finances, the guarantees issued by States as a share of GSDP have been on a rising trend in all the States shown except West Bengal. Chart 4 shows the guarantees issued by States as a share of GSDP.

Off the books

The charts and tables are based on data sourced from the State Finance Audit Reports published for the financial year 2020-21, by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Chart 1: State-wise off-Budget borrowings by the end of March 2021 in ₹ crore

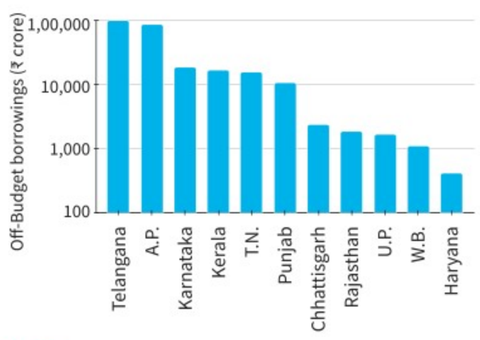


Chart 2: Andhra Pradesh's off-Budget borrowings by government-owned entities by the end of March 2021 in ₹ crore

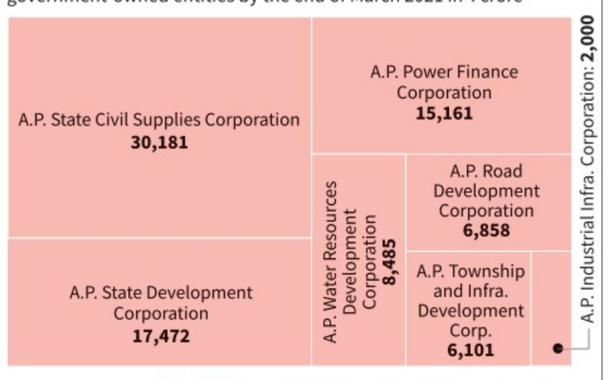
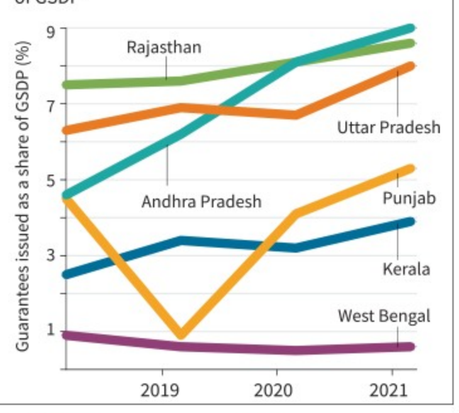


Table 3: Four debt related ratios (all figures in %)

State	Declared debt/ GSDP (excluding off-Budget)	Debt/GSDP (including off-Budget)	Off-Budget borrowings/ debt	State's targets
A.P.	35.3	44.0	24.8	35
Chhattisgarh	25.6	26.2	2.6	21.59
Haryana	31.2	31.3	0.2	21.14
Karnataka	**22.4**	**22.4**	4.6	25
Kerala	39.9	42.0	5.4	29.67
Punjab	47.1	49.1	4.2	38.53
Rajasthan	42.4	42.6	0.4	38.2
T.N	26.9	27.7	3.0	25.2
Telangana	28.1	38.1	35.5	25
U.P.	32.8	32.9	0.3	32
W.B.	37.0	37.1	0.2	34.3

Chart 4: Guarantees issued by States as a share of GSDP



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 16, 1973

Coal to be Rushed by Sea for Thermal Stations

MADRAS, Feb. 15.

Efforts to feed the coal-starved thermal power station at Basin Bridge and Ennore are being made, according to a spokesman of the State Electricity Board.

The spokesman told newsmen here to-day that during the last two days 7,000 tonnes of coal had arrived here by rail and several wagon loads were on the move. He said the Board had contracted for one lakh of tonnes from the Bengal-Bihar coalfields and this would be moved by sea from Calcutta over the next four months. The first consignment of 5,000 tonnes was expected to be received at Tuticorin port on February 18. In addition to the above, the Centre had agreed to supply 50,000 tonnes which would also be moved by sea.

He said the Board had also suggested to a locally based shipping firm to charter foreign small tramp ships from Calcutta to Madras, since ships with bigger draft could not operate in Hooghly river. The Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power has contacted the Director-General of Shipping in this regard.

The spokesman said the Board had just two days' stock of coal at the rate of 1,500 tonnes of consumption a day. He said the power generation to-day was 15 million units (MU) as against the normal requirement of 22 MU.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 16, 1923

Broad-casting in India

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA) DELHI, FEB. 15.

The Government of India have decided to permit private enterprise to undertake broadcasting by radio in British India (including Burma) upon similar lines to those obtaining in the United Kingdom where it is undertaken by a broadcasting Company consisting of British Firms engaged in the manufacture of receiving apparatus. It is proposed to ascertain whether similar arrangements can be made in India to form a company which will be open to British and Indian manufactures. To this end a conference will be held in Delhi on Wednesday the 7th March 1923 under the presidency of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to discuss preliminary details. Manufacturers and others who desire to undertake broadcasting are invited to attend.

From Page One

Eye on China, Cabinet clears 7 ITBP battalions

An amount of ₹2,500 crore of the allocated funds would be spent on roads. Though the VVP was announced in the 2022-23 Budget, no concrete budget or concept plan was shared then.

"This will help in encouraging people to stay in their native locations in border areas and reversing the out migration from these villages, adding to improved security of the border. Students and college students will be encouraged to visit the border villages," Mr. Thakur said.

The scheme will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities in 19 districts and 46 border blocks in four States and one Union Territory along the "northern land border of the country" which will help in achieving inclusive growth and retaining the population in the border areas.

The Cabinet also approved the construction of Shinku La Tunnel to provide all-weather connectivity in Ladakh. Mr. Thakur said the construction work of the 4.1-km tunnel would be completed by December 2025 and the total expenditure would be ₹1,681 crore.

I-T survey at BBC offices enters second day

It is learnt that the BBC has asked its staff to cooperate with the Income Tax Department. Only those with its broadcast wing have been told to come to office, while the others have been allowed to work from home. "We are supporting our staff during this time and continue to hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible," a BBC spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The move has triggered a sharp response from the Opposition and media organisations. The Congress asked what image the Prime Minister wished to convey to the world through such action, especially when India is hosting the G-20 summit. "Demolishing the fourth pillar of democracy has now become a mundane thing in 'New India'," party spokesperson Pawan Khera said.

"Modi*ji* had promised to run 'Start-Up India', but in *Amrit kaal* it has become 'Shut-Up India'," Mr. Khera added.

"It is very unfortunate; it is a political vendetta of the BJP government," West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told journalists at the State Assembly on Wednesday.

EPFO told to expedite work on higher pension

"We expect that the EPFO will release a circular with the procedures in this week," a senior official of the Labour Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The Ministry has also asked the EPFO to be specific about the processes for those who retired before and after September 1, 2014 and currently working EPS subscribers.

The delay in issuing the circular was taken up in both Houses during the Budget Session of Parliament too. CPI(M) MP John Brittas had written to Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav recently urging his intervention to expedite the process.

Merchandise exports decline in January

Based on the revised numbers, the sequential deceleration in both exports and imports is quite significant through January, with outbound shipments dropping 13.6% and imports falling 15.8% from the December 2022 levels. At a cumulative level, merchandise exports have grown 8.5% to $369.25 billion in the first 10 months of 2022-23, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal pointed out, expressing optimism that "this growth momentum would continue despite strong global headwinds". Imports, on the other hand, have grown 21.9% between April 2022 and January 2023 to hit $602.2 billion.

The Ministry attributed this to the dichotomy of a slowing global economy and strong domestic growth despite external headwinds. "This seems to be having a two-way effect on India's trade. On one hand, it is reducing exports as there is decline in global growth, resulting in sluggish export demand, while on the other hand increasing imports as domestic demand remains resilient due to relatively high growth," it explained.

As many as 16 of India's top 30 export commodities reported a decline, with handlooms, plastic and linoleum as well as jute products falling over 30%. Other labour-intensive sectors also reported a marked contraction in exports, including carpets (-27.4%), gems and jewellery (19.3%), manmade yarn (-21.1%), handicrafts (-8%), and readymade garments (-3.5%). Engineering goods exports, accounting for about a quarter of India's exports in recent years, fell nearly 10%. On the other hand, gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, declined by 70.76% to just 0.70 billion in January, the Ministry pointed out. "The material decline in imports during January was partly driven by a collapse in gold imports, but even petroleum shipments fell sharply, mostly reflecting inventory adjustment, in our view, as it comes despite energy prices being broadly stable," Barclays economists Rahul Bajoria and Shreya Sodhani said in a research note.

Indigenous carrier *Vikrant* will be operational by year-end: Navy chief

The carrier will be put through trials and radar fitment over the next few months, says Admiral R. Hari Kumar at the Aero India defence expo; Navy is likely to acquire 45 twin-engine, deck-based indigenous fighter jets by 2040, he adds

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

The country's first indigenous aircraft carrier, *INS Vikrant*, which is undergoing aviation trials, will be fully operational by year-end, and all efforts are on to make it happen, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, said on Wednesday. The indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA-Navy) and the MiG-29K undertook maiden landings on the carrier earlier this month.

"We see another two months of trials in which in addition to the instrumented aircraft, other aircraft will start landing... MF-STAR (multi-functional digital active electronically scanned array radar) fitment will commence from May onwards and should take three-four months time. During that time, she will also undergo some guarantee refit activity. Thereafter, once the monsoon gets over, she will be operationally ready," Adm. Kumar said in response to a question from *The Hindu* at Aero India.

Major strides: INS Vikrant was commissioned into the Navy last September. SPOKESPERSON NAVY/TWITTER

It is an accomplishment that the LCA (Navy) landed on *INS Vikrant* within six months of its commissioning, he stated while expressing satisfaction with the performance of the ship.

In January 2020, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated arrested landing of LCA-Navy on *INS Vikramaditya*. However, the Navy has projected a requirement for a twin-engine aircraft with reasonable combat payload and range to operate from the carriers. So the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the DRDO has embarked on developing a twin-engine deck-based fighter (TEDBF) with an all-up weight of 26 tonnes and wing folding based on the experience of LCA (Navy).

On this, Adm. Kumar said in their discussions with the ADA, DRDO and HAL were quite confident that by 2026 they should be able to develop the prototype and keep doing the trials and productionise it by 2031-32.

"We may be able to get 45 aircraft by 2040. That is as far as indigenous aircraft are concerned," he said, stating this would still leave a gap as the existing carrier compatible MiG-29K jets may not last till then. That is why we are looking at the acquisition of multi-role carrier-based aircraft, for which Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet and Dassault Aviation Rafale-M were evaluated, the Admiral explained.

'Domestic industry gets 75% defence capital outlay'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A record 75% or approximately ₹1 lakh crore of the defence capital procurement budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in the financial year 2023-24, up from 68% in the previous year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced during the Bandhan ceremony at Aero India on Wednesday.

The Bandhan ceremony was the conclusion of 266 partnerships, including 201 memoranda of understanding (MoU), 53 major announcements, nine product launches and three Transfers of Technology, together estimated at ₹80,000 crore, as per a Defence Ministry statement.

The Ministry has been allocated a budget of ₹5.94 lakh crore for 2023-24, which is 13.18% of the Union Budget. The capital outlay for modernisation and infrastructure development is ₹1.63 lakh crore.

The products released at Aero India include a vertically launched short-range surface-to-air missile; a semi-active laser seeker-based anti-tank guided missile for BMP-II infantry vehicles; Jishnu, a drone-delivered missile, which is a light-weight and miniaturised missile for soft-skinned targets; a software-defined NAVIC/GPS receiver module based on indigenously developed processors; indigenously-built counter drone radar based on technology from Defence Research and Development Organisation; 9 mm sub-sonic ammunition; BlueFire Touch, a ground control station software; and high-frequency defined radio.

HAL to provide maintenance and overhaul support for MQ-9B drone engines in India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As India looks to purchase armed Predator Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) from the U.S., Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and General Atomics announced at Aero India on Wednesday that the turbo-propeller engines that power the MQ-9B Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) RPAS will be supported by the HAL engine division for the Indian market. The companies are looking to formulate a comprehensive engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) programme for the upcoming HALE RPAS projects, a joint statement said.

"HAL has been manufacturing and providing MRO support for TPE 331-5 engines for the past 40 years. We are also establishing facilities for manufacturing TPE 331-12B engines for HTT-40 project. The engine used on the MQ-9B RPAS belongs to the same family of engines with upgraded configuration to adapt to the RPAS technology. I am glad that HAL Engine Division, Bengaluru would be providing MRO support to the engine for MQ-9B RPAS, one of the most sophisticated equipment in the world," C.B. Ananthakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director, HAL, said.

Special service: The engine aboard the MQ-9B HALE RPAS is unique, requiring special training and equipment for MRO.

The Indian Navy operates two MQ-9B Sea Guardians taken on lease in 2020. A larger deal for 30 armed MQ-9Bs, 10 for each Service, is pending. Last year, the Defence Ministry ordered a reassessment of the requirements of the deal estimated at around $3 billion.

In another announcement, HAL and Germany-based HENSOLDT announced a collaboration agreement covering design/IPR Transfer for design and manufacturing of Obstacle Avoidance System (OAS) for Indian helicopters, primarily the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and future exports.

'Protest calendar for 2023-24 ready to press for Statehood for Ladakh'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Ladakh residents gathered in Delhi on Wednesday to demand Statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory.

The representatives from both Kargil and Leh asserted that when Sikkim with a population of only 2.5 lakh could be granted Statehood, the same could be done for Ladakh which has a population of around 3 lakh (as per 2011 Census). Rejecting the high-powered committee (HPC) constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on January 2, the speakers – including members of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance – said that any dialogue would henceforth be held directly with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

By the people: Students from Leh stage a protest in New Delhi, demanding Statehood and constitutional safeguards. ANI

Thupstan Chhewang, former BJP MP from Ladakh, said that not a single job had been given to locals since Ladakh became a Union Territory. If their demands were not met, they would intensify the protest, he said, adding that the protest calender for 2023-24 were ready.

Mr. Chhewang added that the committee led by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai did not have any real power and it did not acknowledge any of their demands.

The gathering brought forth people from all walks of life. Lobsang Shirap (88), a farmer from Nubra, said that he was there to fight for the future generation. "There are no jobs and no teachers in schools. I am here to extend support to the youth," he said.

Tsewang Dolma (80) from Henaskot in West Ladakh listened in rapt attention to the speakers on stage as she joined others in raising slogans in support of the Sixth Schedule.

Education reformer Sonam Wangchuk received a rousing welcome as he took the stage. "Ladakh is ecologically sensitive. We were expecting U.T. with a legislature but got one without legislature, we thought it may be on the way. We made the BJP win but gradually they stopped talking about Sixth Schedule," he pointed out.

HC questions use of POCSO Act in Assam child marriage cases

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has questioned the application of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in child marriage cases in Assam, while granting anticipatory bail to nine people booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) on February 14.

The Assam Police began a crackdown on child marriages across the State on February 3. More than 3,000 people allegedly linked with such cases have been booked under relevant sections of the PCMA read with punitive sections of the POCSO Act.

"If marriage is taking place in violation of the law, the law will take its own course. These cases have been happening since time. We will only consider if immediate custodial interrogation is required or not. At this moment, this court thinks that these are not matters for custodial interrogation. We will ask them to appear and record their statements. These are not NDPS, smuggling, stolen property cases," Justice Suman Shyam said.

Calling the allegations "weird", the court sought to know if there was any allegation of rape.

"This (crackdown) is causing a havoc in the private life of people... Obviously, it (child marriage) is a bad idea. We will give our views but at the moment the issue is whether they should be all arrested and put in jail," it added.

Governor should not enter political arena: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said Governors were not supposed to venture into the political arena of alliance-making among parties.

A Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, made the oral remark when Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Maharashtra Governor, dwelt on how the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena had left the "principled" pre-poll alliance between the BJP and the Shiv Sena to join the "opportunistic" post-poll alliance of the Maha Vikas Aghadi with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress.

"Here, the leader took his stable and went to the opposite party... People vote not for individuals but for an ideology and political philosophy..." Mr. Mehta said.

Chief Justice Chandrachud intervened to ask Mr. Mehta how a Governor was bothered by these political movements.

"How can a Governor be heard to say all this? On the formation of the government between the Shiv Sena and... How can the Governor have anything to say on all this? The Governor's role is when they form the government... The Governor will ask them to have a trust vote... Governor should not enter the political arena," the Chief Justice addressed Mr. Mehta.

Mr. Mehta, saying these were his submissions and not on behalf of the Governor, explained that he was only arguing on the "right of conscience" of every legislator. Every principled party member had the right to follow his conscience and stand up to his leader in a multi-party democracy, he said.

"I will not be able to go before my electorate if I sit with my opponents," Mr. Mehta said. He noted that the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution was meant to prevent "unprincipled defections" and not "stifle genuine dissent".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, vehemently objected to Mr. Mehta's submissions, asking if the Governor could comment on politics and alliances. "How is the Governor arguing all this? He [Mr. Mehta] cannot have a status independent of the Governor... He is now saying he is arguing in his individual capacity. What capacity? This is not fair," Mr. Sibal said.

The court is hearing petitions following the political crisis which rocked Maharashtra when Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his camp rebelled and brought down the MVA government in early 2022.

Kashmir's markets down shutters

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Most commercial hubs in Kashmir valley observed a shutdown on Wednesday in protest, even as the Union Home Ministry has reportedly issued directions to the administration to follow legal procedures during the ongoing "anti-encroachment drive". Markets and plazas were closed in parts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Sopore and Anantnag districts.

Tripura voters hold the winning card as State goes to the polls today

With no perceptible wave, the electorate has not revealed its mind yet, making it an unpredictable triangular contest; the BJP, the Left Front-Congress combine and new-entrant TIPRA Motha are locked in a fight for 60 Assembly seats in the State

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

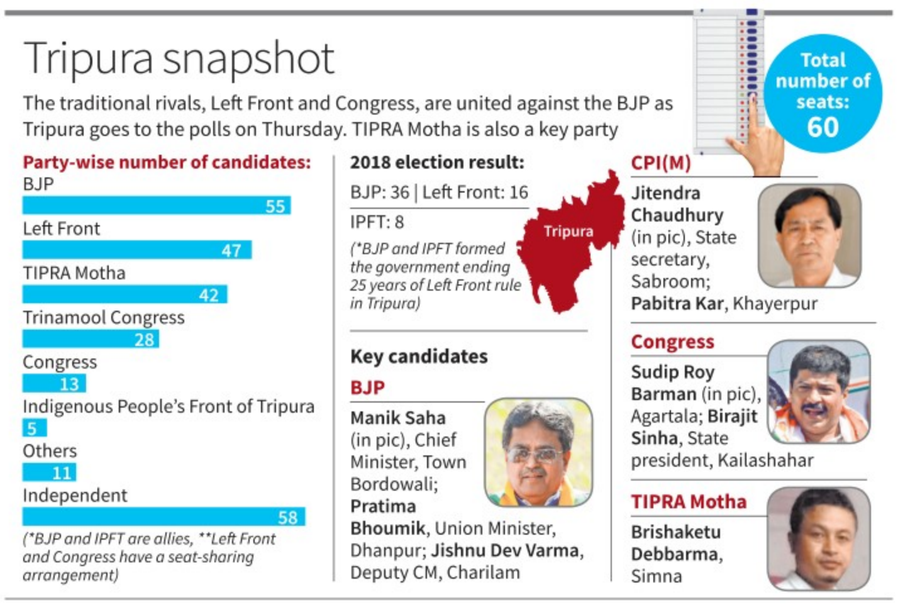
A triangular contest – among the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Left Front-Congress combine and the new-entrant TIPRA Motha – is on the cards in a majority of the 60 Assembly constituencies in Tripura, which goes to the polls on Thursday.

Twenty of these seats straddling a tribal council are reserved for the State's 19 Scheduled Tribes, while 10 are reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Unlike in the past, there does not seem to be a "wave" of support for any party or alliance this time, making the 2023 mandate unpredictable for the general voter and the poll pundit.

The BJP, seeking to retain power, is contesting 55 seats. The party's ally, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), is contesting the remaining five seats, all in the tribal domain.

The Left Front, headed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which struck a seat-sharing deal with the Congress to eject the BJP, is contesting 47 seats. The Congress was allotted 13 seats.


Tripura snapshot
The traditional rivals, Left Front and Congress, are united against the BJP as Tripura goes to the polls on Thursday. TIPRA Motha is also a key party
Total number of seats: 60
Party-wise number of candidates:
BJP 55
Left Front 47
TIPRA Motha 42
Trinamool Congress 28
Congress 13
Indigenous People's Front of Tripura 5
Others 11
Independent 58
(*BJP and IPFT are allies, **Left Front and Congress have a seat-sharing arrangement)
2018 election result:
BJP: 36 | Left Front: 16
IPFT: 8
(*BJP and IPFT formed the government ending 25 years of Left Front rule in Tripura)
Tripura
Key candidates
BJP
Manik Saha (in pic), Chief Minister, Town Bordowali; Pratima Bhoumik, Union Minister, Dhanpur; Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy CM, Charilam
CPI(M)
Jitendra Chaudhury (in pic), State secretary, Sabroom; Pabitra Kar, Khayerpur
Congress
Sudip Roy Barman (in pic), Agartala; Birajit Sinha, State president, Kailashahar
TIPRA Motha
Brishaketu Debbarma, Simna

New entry

The new tribal party, TIPRA Motha, headed by Tripura's royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, has fielded candidates in 42 constituencies, followed by the Trinamool Congress in 28.

The entry of the TIPRA Motha, riding a sweep in the tribal council elections in 2021, is expected to make it tough for the BJP and the Left Front-Congress combine in the 20 seats reserved for the STs and at least five seats beyond the council area which have a sizeable tribal population.

The *Chalo Paltai* (let's change) credo had helped the BJP end 25 years of Left Front rule in 2018, but former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb's alleged overbearing style of functioning led to dissension within the BJP. A few BJP MLAs quit the party, including the heavyweight Sudip Roy Barman, who is now a Congress candidate.

Three IPFT legislators also resigned to join other parties, including the TIPRA Motha.

The BJP's central leadership replaced Mr. Deb with dental surgeon Manik Saha in May 2022 to cleanse the party's image. The Assembly election results are expected to reflect the impact of the damage-control act.

Alleged misrule and high-handedness by the BJP made the Left Front and the Congress forget their bitter rivalry and join hands. The CPI(M) and the Congress hope that their dedicated support base will keep the BJP from ruling Tripura for a second straight term. But the TIPRA Motha appears to have upset the calculations of both the BJP and the Left Front-Congress combine. They both tried to win over the new entrant, but the smaller party stuck to its decision to contest the elections on its own terms, seeking written support for its demand for a Greater Tipraland to be created within the constitutional parameters.

In 2018, the BJP won 36 seats and ally IPFT eight seats. The Left Front managed to bag 16.

Cong. flays BJP govt. over I-T survey on BBC, says it has ruined India's image

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mounting a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi government over the Income Tax (I-T) Department's survey on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) offices in India, the Congress on Wednesday asked what image the Prime Minister wished to convey to the world, especially when India was hosting the G-20 summit later this year.

As the I-T surveys carried on for the second day, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said anyone questioning Mr. Modi's past was "raided" and their voices were muzzled using Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Serious Frauds Investigation Office (SFIO) and the I-T Department.

"Demolishing the fourth pillar of democracy has now become a mundane thing in 'New India'. Modi*ji* had promised to run 'Start-up India', but in *amrit kaal* it has become 'Shut-up India'," Mr. Khera said.

"What image of India is Modi*ji* presenting to the world with this 'raid'," he asked.

Taking a dig at Mr. Modi's oft-used phrase about the roots of democracy in India, the Congress spokesperson said, "By giving the slogan of 'Mother of Democracy', he himself has become the 'Father of Hypocrisy'... As I said, in the World Freedom of Press Index, we have already slipped from 142 to 150 in one year from 2021 to 2022".

Linking the raids to the BBC's two-part documentary, *India: The Modi Question*, Mr. Khera said that before becoming Prime Minister in 2014, the Prime Minister used to laud the BBC. "When Modi*ji* was dreaming of becoming the Prime Minister of the country, he was a dedicated follower of the same BBC," the Congress leader said.

"...if BBC is a part of a foreign conspiracy, why did you raid *Dainik Bhaskar*, *NewsClick*, *Newslaundry*, *NDTV*, *The Wire*, *The Quint*, the list is endless. Were they all part of a foreign conspiracy? And if everybody is a part of a foreign conspiracy, where is your foreign policy," Mr. Khera asked.

On alert: ITBP men stand guard outside the BBC office in New Delhi during an income tax 'survey' on Thursdaay. AFP

Jairam urges RBI, SEBI to probe allegations against Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

He said the RBI should look into the 'true exposure' of the banking system to the group

Congress communicationss chief and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh has written to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch seeking a probe into the allegations of financial irregularities and stock manipulation against the Adani Group. He made the letters public on Wednesday.

In the letter to the RBI Governor, Mr. Ramesh urged the central bank to ensure that "excessive debt exposure" by the Adani Group – currently and in future – did not destabilise India's banking system.

The Congress leader said the RBI should look into the "true exposure" of the Indian banking system to the Adani Group and the explicit and implicit guarantees that might have been given to the group by Indian banks in case foreign funding for the group got exhausted. "Will the RBI ensure that Indian banks are not forced to step in to substitute for any shortfall in foreign financing, especially given the Adani Group's political connections," Mr. Ramesh asked.

In his letter to the SEBI chief, Mr. Ramesh said many Indian citizens were disturbed by the allegations that the Adani Group had indulged in "brazen stock manipulation" and "accounting fraud" via a "vast labyrinth of offshore shell entities". He urged the market regulator to ensure fair investigations without any favour. "Any failure to do so will cast a shadow on Indian corporate governance and on India's financial regulators, and could affect our ability to raise funds globally," he argued.

SC to hear Cong. leader's plea on Adani row tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday listed for Thursday a petition filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur seeking an investigation against the Adani Group on the basis of a report submitted by the U.S.-based short seller firm Hindenburg Research, accusing it of market manipulation and financial fraud.

The plea also sought an investigation into the alleged investment of "huge amounts of public money" by the LIC and the State Bank of India in the FPO of Adani Enterprises at a rate of ₹3,200 per share when the prevailing rate in the secondary market was around ₹1,800 per share.

A Bench agreed to list the petition along with two others scheduled for hearing. The Securities and Exchange Board of India said in court that it was already inquiring into the allegations in the Hindenburg report.

V-P sees design to run down India's growth story

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an oblique reference to the BBC documentary on the Gujarat riots, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that there is a "sinister design to run down India's growth story".

Addressing a group of Indian Information Service probationers at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday, he cautioned them to be alert to such dangers. He said there was "a vicious tendency particularly amongst so-called intelligentsia in our country that anything coming from outside is sanctified".

Such narratives in the past had wrecked havoc, he warned . "Everything can be white-washed. Can go down the drain. If you are not vigilant. You would reckon it, in the last decade or so, a narrative was set forth by a global news house that someone had weapons of mass destruction and therefore, there is a just cause in favour of humanity to take a call. Things happened, but no weapons of mass destruction were found."

Mr. Dhankhar stressed the need to question such "narratives". "How come Indian mind immediately absorbs something and does not analyse? There is a vicious mechanism designed to float a narrative to run down the growth story of this country all in the name of freedom of expression." "Freedom of expression" is valuable and inalienable, and India is a leading example upholding this right, he said. But he held the judiciary culpable of capitulating during the Emergency.

"Nine High Courts of the country held the Fundamental Rights have to be respected, notwithstanding imposition of Emergency. The Supreme Court, in a case that goes by the title *ADM Jabalpur* case, unsettled the verdict of the High Courts," he said. The judges who were part of the Bench, he said, regretted the decision later. "The then Chief Justice Chandrachud said so. Another illustrious judge Justice Bhagwati said so when he turned 90," Mr. Dhankhar said.

"We no longer have the luxury of delayed response," he added.

Why no action against Gehlot loyalists: Pilot

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday flagged the "inordinate delay" by the party's leadership in taking action against those who had "defied" then party president Sonia Gandhi by not letting a Congress Legislature Party meeting take place.

He said a decision on the party's affairs must be taken soon if the trend of parties alternating in power in the State were to be bucked. On the notices issued more than four months ago to three loyalists of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, he said the AICC disciplinary committee can best answer why there had been such a delay.

India, Bangladesh to back each other for UNSC membership

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Wednesday agreed to support each other's non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council.

Apart from multilateral engagements, the two sides held discussions on bilateral development projects, defence cooperation and security issues during the official visit of Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra to Dhaka.

Mr. Kwatra met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of "continued commitment to the bilateral relationship, upholding Bangladesh as the pivot of India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and a key partner of its 'Act East Policy'," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

India's 2021-22 non-permanent membership at the UNSC ended last December and another stint is expected in 2028-29. It is understood that internal discussion is under way in Dhaka for a possible non-permanent stint for Bangladesh at the UNSC during 2030-31.

Mr. Kwatra's visit has come a fortnight before Dhaka's Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen arrives here for the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Bids (RFB)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: **February 16, 2023**

The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India invites Request for Bids from National Suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below: -

Sr. No.	Description of the goods procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date & time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	**Procurement of Emergency Response Station Equipment to Support Post-Crash Care Interventions in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts and Emergency Bags for First Responders for Rescue and Emergency Response in 7 districts**	**February 16, 2023**	**March 06, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Bids (RFB) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .

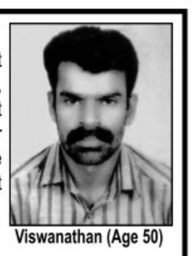
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids Document shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by March 06, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST) positively.

Director (Projects)-cum-CE,
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002

HP / 0810/2022-2023

LOOK OUT NOTICE

A case has been registered against Viswanathan (Age 50), Poolakkappallil House, Karakkuthangadi, Muthuthala, Pattambi, at Pattambi Police Station as Crime Number 54/2022 U/s 323,450,506,376(I) IPC. The case is under investigation. The accused has not been traced till this date.


Viswanathan (Age 50)

Details of the Accused
Colour - Black, Wearing dress - Shirt & Dhothi,
Occupation - Construction work.

If you have any information about this person, kindly contact following numbers of Pattambi Police station.

9497987157 - SHO
9497980625 - Sub Inspector
0466 2212224 - Pattambi Police Station
RO/00399/F2/2023/I&PRD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: Re T No.102/2022-23/SE/Q, Amruth- KLM SS-01 Zone A1- commissioning of sewerage system in iron bridge zone by the rehabilitation of existing sewerage system, extension of the sewerage systems and construction of pumping station and wet well at Iron bridge zone balance works. **EMD:** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540+2978, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-03-2023 02:00 pm, **Phone:** 04742745293. **Website:** www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-1635-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kollam

DELHI JAL BOARD
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-5
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR-III
Kanhaiya Nagar
Delhi - 110035
Phone : 011-27394876
Email : eecdr3@gmail.com

स्वच्छ भारत एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PRESS NIT NO-06 (2022-23)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Tender processing fee (Rs)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	Construction of chambers for House Sewer Connections for Sant Nagar GOC falling under Coronation Pillar Catchment area in Delhi.	63,33,03,190/-	1,26,66,100/-	1500/-	13.02.2023 / 2023_DJB_236522_1	09.03.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 500 (2022-23)
EE(C) DR-III

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FOOD & BEVERAGE CONCESSION AT RGI AIRPORT

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited ("GHIAL") invites interested parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for Concession of Food and Beverage outlets at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport ("RGIA"), Hyderabad.

For details, visit the website:
(https://www.hyderabad.aero/tenders.aspx) for downloading the Application form.

For GHIAL
Bid Manager

HIA/49/PREM ASSOCIATES

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/001/2023 Date :15.02.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement Biolarvicide: Bacillus Thuringiensis Israeliensis (BTI) for NVBDCP for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/BTI-NVBDCP/RC/2023/005 dtd. 15/02/2023	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 16.03.2023, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 18.03.2023 11.00 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

SMART CITY AHMEDABAD DEVELOPMENT LTD. (SCADL)
Registered Office:
Command and Control Centre,
Opp. Divan Ballubhai School,
Nr. Sanskar Kendra, Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380007
E-mail Id: smartcity@ahmedabadcity.gov.in

Smart City Ahmedabad Invites the Eligible Firms for the below project: RFP for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for O&M of Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project infrastructure with integrated command and control centre, edge devices and allied software.

Date of Publishing	16/02/2023
Pre-Bid Meeting - ICCC-SASA Project	27/02/2023 3 PM PALDI
Last Date of Submission	13/03/2023
RFP Document available on	**www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in & www.nprocure.com**

FOR ANY AMC COMPLAINT CALL 155303

INBRIEF

At Khajuraho, an exhibition on repatriated artefacts

Twenty-three repatriated Indian antiquities will be exhibited and each of their stories told to G-20 delegates at Khajuraho as part of efforts to strengthen the mechanism to prevent illicit trafficking in antiquities, and facilitate the return and restitution of such treasured artefacts. The stories will be narrated in a virtual reality mode by none other than the 900-year-old 'Parrot Lady' of Khajuraho – the sandstone sculpture of a woman holding a parrot which was brought back to India from Canada in 2017. The event is part of the meeting of the G-20 Cultural Working Group that is to meet from February 22-25.

Freedom of speech within Parliament is key: Rahul

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has filed a detailed reply to the notice sent to him by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in connection with a privilege motion moved against him by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, sources said on Wednesday. In the reply running into several pages, he has argued that the notice moved by Mr. Dubey is untenable under Lok Sabha rules and procedure. Mr. Gandhi has argued that "freedom of speech" within the Parliament is of utmost importance asserting that "we can hardly call ourselves a democracy if we can't raise issues of public importance in Parliament". He has termed the charges by Mr. Dubey "vague and unspecific".

2 held on charges of killing Dalit man in Muzaffarnagar

Two men belonging to a dominant caste group were arrested on Wednesday on charges of killing a Dalit man and injuring three of his family members in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Mohit Choudhary, Rajendra Choudhary and an accomplice fired shots at the family over a transaction dispute that involved ₹200. While 35-year-old Sanjeev, alias Sanju Vamiki, died on the spot, his four-year-old son Shaurya, five-year-old daughter Divya and brother Rohit Valmiki were injured. Two of the men who attacked the family have been arrested and the third is still at large. "We will arrest him soon," said a police officer of Jansath police station.

'Languages suppressed in colonial era finding a voice'

The era when progress was equated with westernisation is now behind us and many languages and traditions that were suppressed during the colonial era are once again finding a voice on the global stage, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday. Globalisation does not mean uniformity, Mr. Jaishakar said, delivering the inaugural speech at the 12th World Hindi Conference at Nadi in Fiji. "It is only by understanding and accepting the diversity of our world that we can do it full justice," he said, adding that the world must be informed about all cultures and societies and one way of doing that is by broadening the teaching and usage of languages, including Hindi. PTI

Uttarakhand firms up Joshimath relief plan

The State government is offering three options for the permanent rehabilitation of families affected by land subsidence in the town through a policy based on cost and conditions

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposed policy to offer compensation to people who lost their land and buildings due to land subsidence in Joshimath town.

Briefing presspersons, Ranjit Sinha, Secretary, Uttarakhand Disaster Management Department, said the policy was based on cost, options and conditions.

He said the rate of compensation for residential buildings would be calculated by applying the cost index to the plinth area rates of the Central Public Works Department. The final compensation would be calculated after the deduction of depreciation for the affected building from the cost of the upcoming building.

A similar form of relief could be paid for commercial structures for which the government had created five different slabs.

"For the permanent rehabilitation of disaster-affected families, the government is offering them three options," Mr. Sinha said. The first is opt for compensation. In the second option, the affected person or family can seek land from the government and compensation for the damaged building. Land measuring up to 75 square metres (50 metres for building construction and 25 metres for cow shed and other works) would be provided for the construction of a residential building.

In the third option, a person or family can demand a residential building constructed relative to his land and building. Buildings will be constructed by the State government on land up to a maximum area of 50 sq.m, with 25 sq.m for cow sheds and other works.

In case the owner wants the government to build a shop or other commercial establishment such as a hotel or a *dhaba*, he or she could opt to get compensation for the damaged commercial building or shop at the prescribed rate, and compensation for land at rates to be determined in the future on the basis of reports from technical institutions.

"If the disaster-affected person demands land for a shop/business establishment after receiving the compensation for the building, then, in such a situation, land up to a maximum area of 15 sq.m will be provided for the construction of the shop/business establishment," Mr. Sinha added.

If the affected person wanted the government to build a shop or business establishment, then it would be made available by the State government on land up to a maximum area of 15 sq. m. at the identified site.

The State government chalked out a plan for the employment of families and individuals living on rent in Joshimath town.

"If a person in Joshimath who has been working in the disaster-affected area of Joshimath for more than one year by taking a shop on rent and due to the disaster both the land and the building of the shop/business establishment is unsafe, his employment has been affected. If so, such persons will be provided a one-time financial assistance of ₹2 lakh," it said.

Preventive action: Two hotel buildings were demolished as a safety measure in Joshimath last week. ANI

'Israel group running fake campaigns in India, other nations'

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A team of Israeli contractors who are feared to have interfered with more than 30 elections around the world have been linked with software to operate fake social media campaigns across several countries, including India, a report said on Wednesday.

In an international investigation by a journalist consortium including *The Guardian* in the U.K., a firm dubbed "Team Jorge" has been linked with allegedly offering a sophisticated software package named Advanced Impact Media Solutions (Aims) to commercial clients as one of its key services.

The unit is said to be run by Tal Hanan, a 50-year-old former Israeli special forces operative who works privately using the pseudonym "Jorge.

The Guardian report said on Wednesday that it had tracked Aims-linked bot activity across the Internet and found it was behind "fake social media campaigns in about 20 countries including the U.K., the U.S., Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Senegal, India and the UAE".

The project, part of a wider investigation into the disinformation industry, has been coordinated by Forbidden Stories, a French non-profit with a mission to pursue the work of assassinated, threatened or jailed reporters.

In memory of Lankesh

The investigation is part of "Story killers", a collaboration led by Forbidden Stories, and was inspired by the work of Gauri Lankesh, a 55-year-old journalist who was shot dead outside her house in Bengaluru in 2017. *The Guardian* said that hours before Lankesh was murdered, she had been putting the finishing touches on an article titled "In the Age of False News", which examined how so-called lie factories online were spreading disinformation in India.

Cabinet nod for two lakh farm, dairy cooperatives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To strengthen the cooperative sector, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of two lakh primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives in uncovered villages and panchayats over a period of five years.

A total of 25 facilities will be provided through them. Dairy and fishery will be linked to the agri cooperatives. At present, there are 63,000 functional PACS in the country.

The plan is to establish PACS in each uncovered panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat or village and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat or village as well as panchayats and villages with large waterbodies.

(With inputs from PTI)

50 on the streets as bid to save night shelter from G-20 'dream project' falls through

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stepped in too late to save a night shelter in Delhi from demolition to make way for a "dream project" ahead of a G-20 meet in the national capital.

The bulldozing of shelter number 235 in Sarai Kale Khan has left 50 homeless persons without a sanctuary, an application filed by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza said.

The two lawyers had rushed to the courtroom of the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in the morning to mention an urgent appeal to stop the bulldozers, which had by then already started their work.

However, the CJI said that the connected case was already before a Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipak Datta. Justice Bhat was on leave and Justice Datta was sitting with Justice Hrishikesh Roy in another Bench.

Justices Roy and Datta said that there was nothing more to do now, except to look to the rehabilitation of the shelter's residents.

The case was posted to another day, later in the month.

The Delhi Development Authority is constructing a bamboo garden called 'Baansera' in the Yamuna flood plain area at Sarai Kale Khan. "The shelter is located at the entrance of the 'dream project'. The Baansera site has been selected for one of the G-20 summit meetings in Delhi," the application said.

Razed down: Heavy machinery being used to demolish a night shelter at Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Global study blames BJP-backed trolls for threats on journalists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 75% of women journalists who were part of a global survey that included India said they had been targeted by online violence and 20% said they had experienced physical attacks as a consequence, said a UNESCO-funded report published by the New York-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ).

The group, which worked on the studies in collaboration with the Forbidden Stories project that has also just released its investigation into the killing of Bangalore-based journalist Gauri Lankesh in 2017, has profiled Indian columnist Rana Ayyub among a number of journalists, and has alleged that groups affiliated to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were responsible for the attacks.

Neither the government nor the BJP responded immediately to requests for a response to the study.

Rana Ayyub

"Today, an army of trolls evidently aligned with the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) threaten Ayyub at scale; on a daily basis," the ICF report claimed. "The abuse routinely feature threats of death and rape. They are disinformation-laced, and they display characteristics of orchestration. They are also deeply misogynistic and redolent of religious bigotry," the case study (bit.ly/icfjstudy) released publicly on Tuesday said.

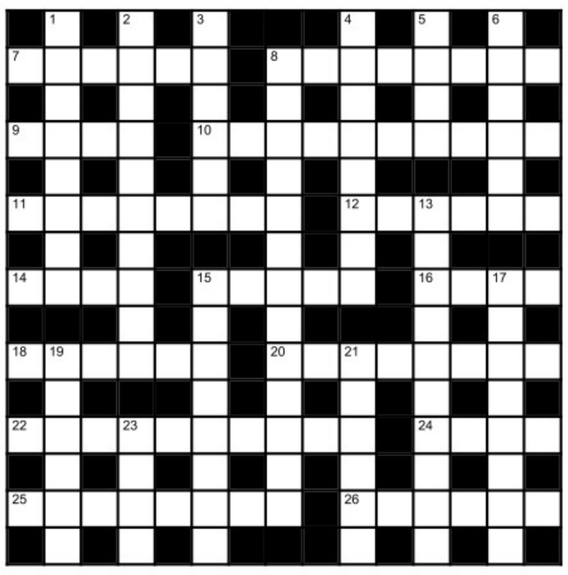
The ICFJ also published 15 key findings based on the analysis of more than 13 million tweets directed at Ms. Ayyub and a Qatar-based Al Jazeera anchor Ghada Oueiss.

TH CROSSWORD + 13790

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 An opening of air transport shrinks what was once a big distance in India (6)
8 Steep price put on spice (8)
9 Jet from home to Kentucky (4)
10 A parts recall together with phone narrowing band of growth for Apple? (6,4)
11 Cast shout very loudly smothering tenor's remarkable performance (3,5)
12 Cold concerning swimmers? (6)
14 Dull day other than in recess (4)
15 Nuts bringing in hard cash for Thailand (5)
16 About time to shut up (4)
18 Area with high risk inhibits American soldier in East Africa (6)
20 Draw straws for one slot? (4,4)
22 Norm to ultimately dig in here - in a mess? (6,4)
24 Respectable groom (4)
25 Leave half-full, not even bagging what might be left (8)
26 Split brown stems of a palm (6)

Down

1 Drain in France for shower (8)
2 Jar has a bay set providing an upper chamber (5,5)
3 Musical piece from Texan, a duet (6)
4 Plane figures in game for children inspired by ordinary gulls (8)
5 One very unusual stunted tree (4)
6 Survives in twigs under leaves (6)
8 Say Reverend Spooner's old lady's family? (3,2,3,5)
13 Version of Italic that's spread lot further (10)
15 Highlight of round in match (5,3)
17 Inducing disheartened, sedate fans to become overambitious (3,5)
19 Start to see eye to eye, possibly over an error (4-2)
21 Dismal doctor irritated nurses (6)
23 Crazy wanting son so badly (4)

SUDOKU

					8	2		
6		5				8		3
	8			1	7		9	
	9			6			1	
1		7				6		9
	5			4			2	
	7		5	8			3	
4		8				9		6
		1	4					

No.SS5711 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	H	A	R	A	D	E	S		I	N	M	A	T	E
H		N		W		C				O		B		V
A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E		C	R	U	I	S	E
L		C		R		I		F		T		D		N
E	N	D	U	E		P	A	R	C	H	M	E	N	T
T		O				S		E		S				U
	S	T	A	T	U	E		E	S	T	O	N	I	A
S		A		E					A		A		L	
C	A	L	O	R	I	E		F	U	R	O	R	E	
A				R		A		A				R		A
B	A	D	M	I	N	T	O	N		S	C	A	N	T
B		E		T		S		A		A		T		O
A	N	C	H	O	R			S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N
R		A		R				I		V		O		E
D	E	L	A	Y	S		S	C	R	E	E	N	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	1	9	6	5	4	8	2
2	5	4	7	8	1	6	3	9
6	9	8	4	3	2	1	5	7
3	7	5	8	9	6	2	1	4
4	8	9	1	2	3	5	7	6
1	2	6	5	7	4	8	9	3
8	6	7	2	5	9	3	4	1
9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2	5
5	1	2	3	4	7	9	6	8

FAITH

When Lord became a dam

Brahma decided to do penance in Kanchi to see Lord Narayana. Because of a quarrel with Brahma, his consort Saraswathi had left him. The Sastras say that a man can perform yagas only if his wife is present. So Brahma sent his son Vasistha to fetch Saraswathi. Brahma's aim through the yaga was not to seek any worldly benefits, but to see the Lord, says Vedanta Desika in his Mei Viratha Manmiyam, a work about Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi. Thus, Desika makes it clear that one must not seek material things by performing Vedic yagas, said T.N. Aravamudachariar, in a discourse. Saraswathi's anger did not abate, despite Vasistha trying to persuade her. She took the form of a raging river to destroy Brahma's yaga. Such was the speed of the river, that it was called Vegavathi.

The river came with such force that it broke down hills and flattened them. Lord Narayana reclined on His snake bed, in the path of the river, and stopped it from destroying Brahma's yaga. This shows that even to worship Him, we need His daya. It also shows that He destroys obstacles in the path of His devotees, and helps them approach Him. The place where the Lord made Himself a dam to stop the progress of Vegavathi is called Thiruvekha. When Brahma completed his yaga, in the month of Chithirai, on a Sunday, Sukla chaturdasi, Hastha star, Lord Varadaraja emerged from the fire of the altar, along with the Punyakoti vimana. His resplendence made Him appear like the rising of one thousand suns all at once. Nityasuris and devas welcomed Him by playing the musical instrument known as Thiruchinnam. They praised Him as the Lord of Hastigiri, the One who showers His mercy on us.

GENEVA

At least 73 migrants 'presumed dead' after shipwreck off Libya: UN

REUTERS

Dozens of migrants are believed to have died in a shipwreck off Libya, with only seven survivors found so far, the UN's International Organization for Migration said on Wednesday. The boat carrying 80 people had departed Qasr Al-Akhyar, some 75 kilometres east of the capital, Tripoli, and was heading to Europe. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia jails journalist for 6 years over critical comments on war

REUTERS

A Russian court on Wednesday sentenced Maria Ponomarenko, a journalist who worked for *RusNews* website, to six years in prison for comments critical of Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, officials said. She was sentenced for spreading information she knew to be false about Moscow's Army, said the Investigative Committee. AFP

BEIJING

China says U.S. balloons flew over Xinjiang, Tibet, warns of retaliation

AP

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin (pictured above) said on Wednesday that United States high-altitude balloons flew over its Xinjiang and Tibet regions, and that it will take measures against U.S. entities that undermine Chinese sovereignty as a diplomatic dispute festered. REUTERS

BUFFALO

White supremacist gets life in prison for Buffalo massacre

AP

Payton Gendron, a white supremacist who killed 10 Black people in Buffalo in the U.S., was sentenced to life in prison without parole on Wednesday. Gendron pleaded guilty in November to crimes including murder and domestic terrorism motivated by hate. He also faces other charges that could carry a death sentence. AP

China must take a haircut on its loans to poor countries, says India's G-20 Sherpa

Beijing needs to come out openly and say what their debt is and how to settle it, says Amitabh Kant, in a rare, direct reference to Chinese debt of developing nations; While the U.S. has been a vocal critic of Chinese debt, India has seldom commented on it while talking on sovereign debt

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

China must agree to take a haircut on its loans to poor countries and assist their economic recovery, India's G-20 Sherpa has said, in a rare, direct reference to Chinese debt of developing nations.

"China needs to come out openly and say what their debt is and how to settle it," said Amitabh Kant, according to a *Bloomberg* news report. "It can't be that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) takes a haircut and it goes to settle Chinese debt. How is that possible? Everybody has to take a haircut," the Sherpa was quoted as saying.

While the United States has been a vocal critic of Chinese debt in developing nations, with its top officials frequently commenting on the top Asian lender's role in the restructure process, India has seldom made mention of China while commenting on sovereign debt of countries.

Mr. Kant's remarks assume significance ahead of a scheduled virtual meeting of the Global Sovereign Debt Round-table, organised by the IMF, the World Bank and India, which is leading the Group of 20 major economies this year. The virtual round-table on February 17 will be followed by an in-person meeting in Bengaluru on February 25, *PTI* news agency reported from Washington DC.

A Sri Lankan vendor near the Hambantota port, built with Chinese funds. It is now under China's control due loan default. REUTERS

The meeting will not feature a "country-specific" discussion but will focus on broader issues "impeding reaching a timely debt restructuring process", and lessons from recent cases and possible technical solutions to address shortcomings, Director of the IMF's Strategy and Policy Review Department Ceyla Pazarbasioglu told reporters. Officials from creditor countries including China, India, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Group of Seven (G-7) members are expected to participate.

Sri Lanka's case

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said the debt-ridden island nation hoped to receive the IMF's $2.9 billion package by March to set the country's economy on a path of recovery after last year's painful financial crash.

Although the Export-Import Bank of China has offered a two-year moratorium to Sri Lanka, Beijing is yet to provide specific financing assurances to the IMF to help Sri Lanka unlock the $2.9 billion "bailout package" that Colombo is desperately counting on to rebuild its economy.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing on Wednesday that China "stands ready to work with relevant countries and [international] financial institutions to continue to play a positive role in helping Sri Lanka navigate the situation, easing its debt burden and helping it achieve sustainable development."

Scotland's leader Sturgeon announces shock resignation

Agence France-Presse
EDINBURGH

Nicola Sturgeon

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced on Wednesday her resignation after more than eight years leading its devolved government, in a shock move jolting British politics on both sides of the border.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) leader said in "my head and in my heart" she knew the time was right to quit, after approaching a decade in power pushing for Scottish independence and opposing Brexit.

The 52-year-old departs as Scotland's leader and head of the SNP, the largest party in the devolved Parliament, after facing mounting pressure over her tactics for independence and over transgender rights. She confirmed she would remain as first minister until the SNP elects a new leader.

Political allies immediately paid tribute to Ms. Sturgeon, with SNP MP Stewart McDonald describing her as "the finest public servant of the devolution age".

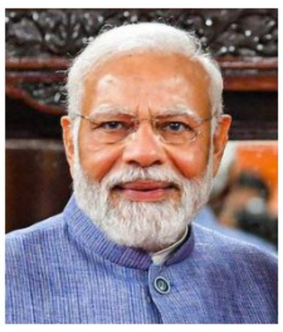
Between BBC, Boeing and Airbus, Modi sets rules of the game with West

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

As it happened, on the same day the Tata Group-owned Air India announced orders for 470 aircraft from American manufacturer Boeing and French manufacturer Airbus, Indian Income Tax authorities dropped by at the offices of the BBC. Just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about deepening strategic partnerships with the U.S. and France, BJP functionaries, including Union ministers, accused the BBC of running an anti-India agenda with the support of Opposition parties. Mr. Modi had French President Emmanuel Macron on a video call, and U.S. President Joe Biden on an audio call to celebrate the aircraft deal, while U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose country is also a beneficiary of the deal in which Rolls Royce will be making the engines for Airbus aircraft, tweeted out his ebullience. All this taken together reflects the terms of engagement that Mr. Modi wants to set with the West – a "Hindutva strategic doctrine" for India's engagement with the world.

Mr. Modi has repeatedly



Narendra Modi

referred to three Ds – Democracy, Demand, and Demography – as factors that make India an attractive place for the West to engage and do business with. When Mr. Modi began talking about 3D in 2014, the U.S. was happily doing business with China. In the years that followed, U.S. relations with China nosedived, and Russia invaded Ukraine. The Biden administration now wants to frame international politics as a fundamental ideological cleft between democracy and autocracy.

On Tuesday, Mr. Modi invited western companies to use the opportunities of India's expanding civil aviation market. On the first D, western governments murmur occasional protests, but they cannot hide their excitement when it comes to the second D. The Air India order was Boeing's third largest sale of all time, in dollar value, and it is second of all time in quantity.

"This purchase will support over 1 million American jobs across 44 states, and many will not require a four-year college degree," U.S. President Joe Biden said, according to a White House release. According to Mr. Sunak, the aircraft order will create "better-paid jobs and new opportunities in manufacturing hubs from Derby to Wales," which will help the U.K. to "grow the economy and support our agenda to level up". Mr. Macron was described by Mr. Modi as a friend, and both hailed the "strategic partnership" between the two countries. The lure of of the Indian market, powered by its demography, seems stronger than that of the second D - Democracy.

Familiar logic

While the British government has so far remained silent on IT action on BBC, U.S. State Department Spokesperson Ned Price did not want to make a judgment other than declaring the importance of free media in a democracy. On whether the action went against democratic values, Mr. Price said, "I couldn't say. We're aware of the facts of these searches, but I'm just not in a position to offer a judgment." The BJP's position is that the BBC is not free media, but a foreign agent that is working with an anti-India agenda. That is a familiar logic for western democracies actually. The U.S. and EU have imposed a range of restrictions on Russian media on the same grounds.

The Modi government had reminded the Biden administration of the rioters at Capitol Hill when it was questioned about police action against protesting farmers running amok in New Delhi, in January 2021. There are many contradictions in the narrative about a global contest between democracies and autocracies, and the turmoil within democratic countries are significant, undermining any claims of western superiority on this front.

The Hindutva strategic doctrine seeks western support and cooperation for its nationalist ambitions. Hence, western technology and investment are solicited, but there is stiff resistance to western prescriptions on domestic political questions. On the other side, when required to choose between a tangible commercial opportunity and an abstract moral objective, western governments have never been confused.

Warm water melts Antarctica's glacier: study

Reuters
MEXICO CITY

Scientists studying Antarctica's vast Thwaites Glacier – nicknamed the Doomsday Glacier – say warm water is seeping into its weak spots, worsening melting caused by rising temperatures, two papers published in *Nature* journal showed on Wednesday.

Thwaites, which is roughly the size of Florida, represents more than half a metre of global sea level rise potential, and could destabilise neighbouring glaciers that have the potential to cause a further three-meter rise.

As part of the International Thwaites Glacier collaboration, a team of 13 U.S. and British scientists spent about six weeks on the glacier. They monitored the glacier using an underwater robot vehicle known as Icefin.

In one of the papers, Cornell University-based scientist Britney Schmidt said the melting was of grave concern.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
222313 006787	Renovation and Strengthening of RCC Chimney in Recovery Boiler #3 upto 90 Mtr height.	03.03.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions Tender fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1010/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode only)
No: 908/BGK/Tr.(W&M)/SEE/EE(O)/AEE(E)-1/F-53/7090-99 Date: 15.02.2023

KPTCL Invites Tenders on electronic mode for the following works **on Total Turnkey Basis.**

1. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/SHIROL/CALL-4.** Tender for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Shirol** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot".
2. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/VJMT/CALL-4.** Tender for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank at **220kV R/s Vajjaramatti** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot".
3. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/SAVALAGI/CALL-4.** Tender for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Savalagi** in Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot".
4. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/UTTUR/CALL-4,** Tender for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-II at **110kV Sub-station Uttur** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.
5. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/RANBLGLI/CALL-4.** Tender for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Ranna Belagali** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot".

The tenders will be received through e-portal Mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-portal process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.02.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.,),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Opposite Sector No. 45, Zonal Office Complex, Navanagara, Bagalkot - 587103.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road), Bengaluru-25
Phone: 080-25584102/25594893 Website: www.ksphc.org
e-Mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/62/2022-23/335 Date: 14.02.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTTP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (two tender document systems) for the following works:

1. Construction of 3 Bay Fire Station at Amingad in Bagalkote District under K-safe -2 scheme. (APT Rs.221.85 Lakhs)
2. Construction of 3 Bay Fire Station at Gajendragada in Gadag District under K-safe -2 scheme. (APT Rs.223.11 Lakhs)
3. Construction of 3 Bay Fire Station at Mangasuli Village, Kagawad Taluk in Belagavi District. under K-safe -2 scheme. (APT Rs.223.03 Lakhs)

AND

4. Construction of 3 Nos of Barracks Building at Sub Jail premises Gokak in Belagavi District. (APT Rs.152.32 Lakhs) **(CALL-2)**

Interested Eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from **21.02.2023**.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-Contracts

DIPR/CP/AAA/4699/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone), 340/A, 5th Main, RCHS Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagara, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-91

No.: BBMP/SADH/RRN/TENDER/PR/216/2022-23 Date: 15.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru (Referred to as Employer in these documents), invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Landscape Development around JP Park Lake in **Ward No. 17**, JP Park. **Category: General (Call-2)**	75.00	1,12,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) The tender document can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **17.02.2023, 10:00 a.m. (2)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **23.02.2023, 4:00 p.m.** The opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(3)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone) **25.02.2023, 4:30 p.m. (4)** Financial bids will be opened on the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone) on **28.02.2023,** if possible. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone), BBMP

INBRIEF

'Early availability of ITR forms to aid return filing from April 1'

The Income Tax department on Wednesday said the ITR forms for 2022-23 will come into effect from April 1 and have been notified well in advance to enable filing of returns from the beginning of the ensuing Assessment Year. No significant changes have been made compared with last year's ITR forms. Only bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the I-T Act, 1961, have been made, it added. PTI

SBI raises MCLR-based lending rates by 10 bps to 7.95-8.7%

State Bank of India on Wednesday marginally increased the short-term lending rates across overnight to three year maturities by 10 basis points (bps) with immediate effect. According to SBI's website, the bank has increased the overnight lending rate, based on the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, by 10 bps to 7.95%, while the same for one-and three-month maturity has been increased to 8.10%. The rate hike will not affect retail customers of home and auto loans as they are of long-term duration. PTI

Amrutanjan shares fall 8.15% as firm initiates forensic probe

Shares of Amrutanjan Health Care Ltd. slumped 8.15%, or ₹57.25, to close at ₹645.35 on the BSE on Wednesday after the company initiated a forensic investigation by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India, LLP, into an 'anonymous' whistle blower's allegations of lapses by some senior management employees. On Tuesday, Amrutanjan Health Care had reported a 48% decline in standalone net profit for the quarter ended December to about ₹11 crore.

Govt. monitoring imports to detect any surge that can hurt economy: FM

Atma Nirbhar Bharat approach is not inward-looking, imports of critical inputs not barred, says Sitharaman; Finance Minister urges exporters to be mindful of global demand slowdown in order to guard against getting 'demotivated'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Flood watch

FM says govt. keeping a keen eye on merchandise trade trends to guard against sudden flooding of any particular line of goods

- Govt. to continue paring duties wherever it can be done without hurting local firms
- A surge in imports for only 3 months can hurt economy for a whole year, says FM
- Exporters urged to constantly interact with govt. to help tide over challenges

The Centre was keeping a "keen eye" on merchandise import trends to assess if there "was flooding" of any particular goods, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, observing that even a few months of import surges could hurt the economy for "a whole year".

Stressing that the Atma Nirbhar Bharat approach was not inward-looking and that imports of critical inputs for Indian industry would not be barred, the Minister said on Wednesday the government would continue to reduce duties wherever it was possible to do so without hurting domestic players.

"At the same time, [government will] keep a very close watch on flooding or surge in any kind of imported goods. The surge sometimes hurt us, even if... only for three months, it can hurt us for a whole year," she noted at an Assocham interaction. Ms. Sitharaman also expressed concern about the impending challenge to exporters from a global slowdown.

'More receptive'

"Indian exporters will have to be far more receptive of what is happening there [in global markets] or even foresee how that will pan out for them and keep constantly engaging with the government. Otherwise, at a time when our exporters are really readying themselves to be on their toes, such challenges can really demotivate them," Ms. Sitharaman said.

On the question of including petroleum products in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, she said it would require a consensus with States and would need the entire GST Council's backing.

'Govt. may mull fuel tax cut to cool prices'

Reuters
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The government could consider cutting taxes on some items such as maize and fuel in response to the central bank's recommendations to help rein in climbing retail inflation, two sources with knowledge of the discussions told Reuters. However, a decision will only be taken after the release of February inflation data, one of the sources said.

India's retail inflation rose to 6.52% in January, from 5.72% in December, data showed this week.

"Food inflation is likely to stay high, prices of milk, maize and soy oil are adding to inflation worries in the near term," a senior source familiar with the central bank's and government's thinking on the matter said.

"The government is looking at cutting import duties on products like maize, which attract a 60% basic duty, while taxes on fuel could also be reduced again," the source added.

Though global crude oil prices have eased in recent months, fuel companies have not passed on the lower import costs to consumers trying to make up for previous losses.

Cereal inflation broad-based and worrying, say economists

Reuters
MUMBAI

The soaring prices of cereals such as wheat and rice are a concern for the Indian economy even though the latest set of inflation data may overstate the extent of the increase, economists said.

Inflation in the cereals category hit 16.1% in January compared to 13.7% in December, data released on Monday show. Alongside cereals, rising prices of protein items like milk, eggs and meat pushed up food and beverages inflation to 6.2% in January.

Besides their effect on rates, elevated food prices will be a burden in India's rural areas, where disposable income is low and wage hikes have not kept pace with the rise in inflation.

"Higher inflation in more heavily weighted components such as staple cereals and proteins was worrying," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist at ANZ Research. Mr. Nim said the persistently high wheat and rice prices – despite the government's steps such as curbing wheat exports – had led to inflation in items which use these staples as key inputs.

"The three-month moving average inflation rates for items like biscuits, bread, refined flour, and semolina have been substantially higher than their latest 3-year average inflation rates," he said.

"Cereal inflation, in short, has become broad-based, which is concerning."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,275	0.40
US Dollar	82.81	-0.04
Gold	56,345	-0.91
Brent oil	84.58	-1.30

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1779.10	29.40
Adani Ports	569.05	3.95
Apollo Hosp	4487.90	219.05
Asian Paints	2786.15	9.15
Axis Bank	868.30	-2.45
Bajaj Auto	3905.40	29.30
Bajaj Finserv	1420.80	22.20
Bajaj Finance	6489.95	31.25
Bharti Airtel	785.40	10.20
BPCL	331.15	0.00
Britannia Ind	4588.45	-11.40
Cipla	1030.80	2.45
Coal India	212.90	1.15
Divis Lab	2822.55	30.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4519.85	-18.55
Eicher Motors	3311.15	135.45
Grasim Ind	1626.15	21.45
HCL Tech	1132.90	7.45
HDFC	2703.90	-14.85
HDFC Bank	1670.30	-3.40
HDFC Life	519.10	7.05
Hero MotoCorp	2572.00	29.50
Hindalco	433.95	-0.85
Hind Unilever	2548.45	-31.15
ICICI Bank	870.80	5.50
IndusInd Bank	1149.60	-7.25
Infosys	1597.05	3.80
ITC	382.20	-4.25
JSW Steel	727.15	3.30
Kotak Bank	1785.50	15.15
L&T	2175.05	-16.60
M&M	1379.35	16.20
Maruti Suzuki	8845.35	70.90
NestleIndia	19260.95	178.05
NTPC	165.80	-0.25
ONGC	147.50	-0.95
PowerGrid Corp	214.50	-0.50
Reliance Ind	2431.95	53.85
SBI Life	1180.35	18.65
State Bank	542.25	1.40
Sun Pharma	995.40	-11.35
TataConsumerProduct	728.10	7.10
Tata Motors	444.15	3.60
Tata Steel	110.30	1.05
TCS	3520.65	20.55
Tech Mahindra	1071.40	59.35
Titan	2524.30	17.40
UltraTech Cement	7151.85	12.65
UPL	769.35	7.75
Wipro	407.40	2.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.56	82.88
Euro	88.79	89.14
British Pound	100.64	101.03
Japanese Yen (100)	62.43	62.67
Chinese Yuan	12.12	12.16
Swiss Franc	89.86	90.21
Singapore Dollar	62.20	62.45
Canadian Dollar	61.88	62.12
Malaysian Ringitt	18.98	19.07
Australian Dollar	57.51	57.73

Source:Indian Bank

NSE inks pact with CME for crude, natural gas contracts

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange NSE said on Wednesday it had entered into a data licensing agreement with derivatives marketplace CME Group for WTI crude oil and natural gas contracts.

The pact will allow the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to list, trade and settle rupee denominated Nymex WTI crude oil and natural gas derivatives contracts for Indian market participants, the bourse said in a statement.

The addition of the contracts will expand the NSE product offering and its overall commodity segment.

TI Clean Mobility to roll out EVs from March

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Vellayan Subbiah

TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. (TICMPL), a subsidiary of Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) will start rolling out its electric three wheeler and truck in March and tractor by July, said TII executive vice chairman Vellayan Subbiah.

"We will start manufacturing and put out the first set of products in March with our current plan and then start selling, increasing volumes April onwards," Mr. Subbiah said during the Q3 analysts call.

According to him, the 55-tonne EV truck is expected to be completed during the March-April time frame.

"The EV tractor still needs full homologation, which means that sales will only happen in the July time frame.

The delay is what we had anticipated in the past," he said.

During the Q2 analysts call, Mr. Vellayan had said that electric heavy commercial vehicle launch would happen in December and electric tractors either in the last quarter of FY23 or Q1 of FY24.

Vedanta says it cut net debt by $2 bn in fiscal 2023

Reuters
BENGALURU

Vedanta Resources said on Wednesday it had brought down debt significantly, seeking to allay market concerns after S&P Global Ratings last week raised doubts about its ability to meet financial obligations beyond September.

The billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned company, parent of Indian resources giant Vedanta Ltd., said it had cut net debt by $2 billion in the last 11 months, ahead of its own target.

The company also said it plans to cover 50% of its liquidity requirements for fiscal 2024 internally and the rest via refinancing.

Consortium moots separate ministry for microenterprises

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Consortium of Indian Associations (CIA) has suggested creating an independent ministry for the self-employed and micro enterprises to address specific issues concerning the sector.

"Though the government has been talking about 'ease of doing business', micro entrepreneurs continue to be governed by complicated and outdated laws and dispensable compliance burdens," CIA convenor K.E. Raghunathan said in a statement.

The consortium also proposed that the government amend the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, to strengthen the state facilitation councils.

The recommendations were made by CIA based on a nationwide survey during the first week of February, post the presentation of the Union Budget for 2023-24, he said.

The objective of the survey was to know the predicament of MSMEs in India, their opinion on Budget 2023, and their unfulfilled requirements. The survey covered the opinion of 1,08,500 respondents.

The respondents included manufacturers (52%), service providers (10%), self- employed (11%), and exporters (9%), he said.

The report stressed the need for the government to adopt a three-pronged approach towards small to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) - exempt, protect and support - to mitigate the challenges being faced by the sector.

The report and its findings will be submitted to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, MSME Minister, Commerce Minister and all chief ministers, Mr. Raghunathan added.

'Wheat prices fell to ₹5 per kg after open market sale'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra on Wednesday said the prices of wheat in wholesale and retail markets have come down by about ₹5 per kg after the Centre's decision to sell 3 million tonnes of the grain in the open market, and asserted that more steps would be taken if required to ease rates.

Mr. Chopra said that the government was not considering any proposal as of now to lift the ban on wheat exports, which was imposed in May last year after a sharp fall in its procurement.

NEW ROLE

RCB ropes in Sania as team mentor for Women's Premier League

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) has roped in Sania Mirza as the team mentor for Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023. "It is a pleasure for me to join the RCB women's team as a mentor. Indian women's cricket has seen a tectonic shift with the WPL, and I am looking forward to being a part of this revolution," she said.

EASILY DONE

Wareham and Lanning help Australia cruise to victory

Leg-spinner Georgia Wareham (PoM) grabbed three wickets as Australia beat Bangladesh in the Women's T20 World Cup at Gqeberha on Tuesday.
The scores: Bangladesh 107/7 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 57, Wareham 3/20) lost to Australia 111/2 in 18.2 overs (Meg Lanning 48).

SECOND WIN

Hyderabad Black Hawks downs Kochi Blue Spikers in the PVL

Hyderabad Black Hawks began its campaign at home in style with a 15-13, 10-15, 15-13, 15-6, 13-15 win over Kochi Blue Spikers in the Prime Volleyball League in Hyderabad on Wednesday. This was the second victory in four games for Black Hawks while Blue Spikers suffered a fourth straight loss.

ON A MISSION

Tiger Woods eyes Riviera triumph despite injury concerns

Tiger Woods returns from a seven-month injury absence this week amid plenty of uncertainty, but his goal at the Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles remains clear: to win. "I would not have put myself out here if I didn't think I could beat these guys and win the event," the 15-time major champion said on Tuesday.

Deepti, Richa provide impetus to propel India past Windies

Off-spinner bags three wickets en route a special landmark; Richa, Harmanpreet's stand of 72 helps the side to a facile win

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

Deepti Sharma shone with the ball before Richa Ghosh led India to a six-wicket win over West Indies in its Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 match here on Wednesday.

Deepti spun a web around the West Indies batters to restrict them to 118 for six after being asked to bowl. The seasoned off-spinner took three wickets to become the first Indian to get to 100 women's T20I wickets.

Richa (44 not out) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (33) then put on a vital 72-run partnership to take India to its second victory of the tournament with 11 balls to spare.

Fabulous feat

Deepti Sharma, on Wednesday, became the **first Indian cricketer,** male or female, to take 100 T20I wickets

TOP 10 INDIANS

Deepti Sharma	**100 wkts.**
Poonam Yadav	98
Yuzvendra Chahal	91
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	90
R. Ashwin	72
Jasprit Bumrah	70
Hardik Pandya	69
Radha Yadav	67
Rajeshwari Gayakwad	58
Jhulan Goswami	56

SOURCE: ESPN CRICINFO

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES
Hayley Matthews c Richa b Pooja 2 *(6b)*, Stafanie Taylor lbw b Deepti 42 *(40b, 6x4)*, Shemaine Campbelle c Smriti b Deepti 30 *(36b, 3x4)*, Chinelle Henry run out 2 *(4b)*, Chedean Nation (not out) 21 *(18b, 1x4)*, Shabika Gajnabi b Renuka 15 *(13b, 2x4)*, Afy Fletcher b Deepti 0 *(1b)*, Rashada Williams (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1,w-3): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 118.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Matthews, 1.1 overs), 2-77 (Campbelle, 13.3), 3-78 (Taylor, 13.6), 4-79 (Henry, 14.2), 5-114 (Gajnabi, 18.6), 6-115 (Fletcher, 19.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-22-1, Pooja 4-1-21-1, Rajeshwari 4-0-30-0, Deepti 4-0-15-3, Shafali 1-0-5-0, Radha 1-0-8-0, Devika 2-0-16-0.

INDIA
Shafali Verma c Fletcher b Ramharack 28 *(23b, 5x4)*, Smriti Mandhana st Williams b Ramharack 10 *(7b, 2x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c&b Matthews 1 *(5b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Campbelle b Henry 33 *(42b, 3x4)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 44 *(32b, 5x4)*, Devika Vaidya (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (w-2, nb-1): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 18.1 overs): 119.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-32 (Smriti, 3.3), 2-35 (Jemimah, 4.5), 3-43 (Shafali, 7.1), 4-115 (Harmanpreet, 17.5).

WEST INDIES BOWLING
Connell 2.1-0-27-0, Henry 3-1-21-1, Matthews 4-0-12-1, Ramharack 4-0-14-2, Fletcher 2-0-24-0, Selman 2-0-11-0, Gajnabi 1-0-10-0.
Toss: West Indies. **PoM:** Deepti.
India won by six wickets with 11 balls remaining.

Needing less than run a ball, India was off to an electric start with openers Shafali Verma (28) and Smriti Madhana (10) taking the total to 31 in four overs on the back of six fours.

Jemimah Rodrigues (1) became Hayley Matthews first victim as the skipper took a stellar catch of her own bowling.Earlier, Pooja Vastrakar, opening with the new ball, gave India the early breakthrough, getting rid of the dangerous Hayley Matthew (2), striking on her very first ball.

Pooja continued to put pressure on the West Indies, bowling a wicket-maiden. Shemaine Campbelle (30) hit West Indies' first boundary in the third over.

The introduction of spin led to West Indies collecting 12 runs, including two fours from Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

Useful stand
Campbelle and Stefanie Taylor (42) steadied the West Indies innings as they s stitched a 73-run partnership. However, twin strikes from Deepti led to a mini batting collapse. Chinelle Henry (2) was the next to go as Smriti and Richa effected her run out.

Deepti reached the 100-wicket milestone in the last over when she bamboozled Afy Fletcher (0).

Day to cherish: Deepti had a memorable outing as she became the first Indian to claim 100 T20I wickets. AFP

Not surprising to find the Aussies in a tizzy as their struggle with spin continues

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Is Australia really the most dominant team in Test cricket? One quick look at its record in Asia is enough to indicate its vulnerability in the region.

Long gone are the days of Australian dominance that saw teams from Down Under stay on top by winning 28 out of 32 bilateral series between 1999 and 2008.

Since suffering a 3-0 drubbing to host Sri Lanka in 2016, Australia's track record is anything but dominant.

Interspersed with a few wins, Australia lost the home series to South Africa 2-1, to host India 2-1, drew 1-1 with host Bangladesh, lost 3-1 to South Africa at home, lost to Pakistan 1-0 in the UAE and twice lost 2-1 at home to India in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Last year, the narrow 1-0 victory over Pakistan and a 1-1 deadlock against Sri Lanka hardly helped Australia's fading reputation.

Hardly unexpected
With this being the background, Australia's plight in the ongoing series in India is hardly unexpected.

At Nagpur, it became very clear that the over-analysed pitch had little to do with the way Australia met its doom.

Close scrutiny: Jadeja and Pujara inspect the pitch ahead of the second Test. R.V. MOORTHY

After having the benefit of winning the toss and raising visions of a fighting total, Australia folded for a modest tally by losing its last eight wickets for less than 100 runs.

When India batted, notwithstanding Rohit Sharma's return-to-form with a century, the Australian bowlers allowed the four Indian all-rounders and bowlers – Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami and R. Ashwin – 214 runs which was more than 50% of India's tally of 400 runs.

As a result, the collective failure of all but one Indian top-order batter and the fact that the host gave seven wickets to a none-too-threatening debutant off-spinner Todd Murphy was pushed to the background.

Thereafter, Australia collapsed in just one, extended session. Who would have imagined such an abject surrender from a nation that takes pride in being in the face – and sometimes under the skin – of the opposition?

Playing the wrong line
No doubt, the playing surface assisted spin but not all Aussies fell to spin. Some waited for the turn and were declared leg-before to the one that held its line. Some others misread the slight turn or played the wrong line to be bowled.

On the first day, if Australia came prepared to tackle Ashwin, some batters dealt with the questions posed by Jadeja as though they were out of syllabus.

In the second innings, when the Aussies understandably focused on Jadeja, Ashwin made his presence felt.

No wonder then, that the blows from Jadeja and Ashwin have landed between the ears and left the Aussies in a tizzy.

Shreyas, if fit, will walk into the XI, says Dravid

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer will "walk" into the Indian team provided he proves his fitness ahead of the second India-Australia Test beginning at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here on Friday.

A day after the Mumbai batter joined the squad following recovery from a back injury, coach Rahul Dravid lent strength to Shreyas' claim for a place in the playing XI.

"I'm glad that he is back and fit. He's had a long session today and he has done some training. We will assess it tomorrow (Thursday) once he comes for a light hit and see how it goes.

"If he is fit, ready to go and take the load of five days of a Test match, he will walk straight into the XI," Dravid said.

Praise for Pujara
He also praised Cheteshwar Pujara ahead of the batter's 100th Test appearance.

Speaking in Hindi, Dravid said, "He is a very popular player. In the last 10 years, Pujara has played some very important knocks for the country which have won us matches and series. We are happy to celebrate this moment with him."

On the road to recovery from a finger injury suffered during the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, Aussie all-rounder Cameron Green started promisingly at the net but eventually looked uncomfortable after bowling for about 45 minutes and batting for an hour.

Pacer Mitchell Starc, back at the nets for the first time in a week and nursing a finger-injury of his bowling hand, said, "Still a good chance (of playing). I'll do everything I can to be fully available for selection."

In the balance: Shreyas will be assessed once he has a light hit on Thursday and a decision will be taken accordingly. R.V. MOORTHY

Irani Cup tie in Gwalior likely to be a pink-ball affair

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Irani Cup tie between Madhya Pradesh and Rest of India, to be played in Gwalior from March 1 to 5, is likely to be a floodlit game. *The Hindu* understands that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had communicated its preference for a pink-ball Irani Cup match to the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) well in advance.

The final decision is set to be made later this week.

Should the pink-ball game go ahead as per the plan, it will be the first floodlit Irani Cup game.

Sportstar's Moment of the Year award for 2022

SPORTSTAR ACES 2023 INDIA TRIUMPHS #Aces2023

Sports Bureau

The *Sportstar* Aces Awards are back for a fifth chapter, seeking to honour incredible performances in sports across various disciplines.

Among the many Popular Choice honours open to public voting is the Moment of the Year award.

Here's a look at these standout moments from Indian sports in 2022.

India's maiden Thomas Cup title
India became the sixth country in the world to lift the Thomas Cup after crushing 14-time champion Indonesia 3-0 in the final at Bangkok.

Lakshya Sen and K. Srikanth won their singles matches and Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy won their doubles clash to make it a convincing victory for India.

Sharath wins CWG gold after 16 years
At 40, Sharath Kamal had a dream Commonwealth Games, winning medals in every event he participated in.

However, the crowning glory of his record haul was when he defeated second seed Liam Pitchford 4-1 in the men's singles final to clinch his second Commonwealth Games gold, 16 years after his first one way back in 2006 at the Melbourne Games.

Kohli's heroics against Pakistan
India's batting superstar Virat Kohli played an innings to remember to guide India to a four-wicket win over arch-rival Pakistan in its T20 World Cup opener at the MCG.

With India reeling at 31 for four while chasing 160, Kohli held fort with a 43-ball fifty before teeing off in the final three overs to end with an unbeaten 53-ball 82.

Nikhat becomes World champion
Nikhat Zareen became the sixth Indian – and the first since Mary Kom in 2018 – to win gold in the Women's World boxing championships defeating Thai Jutamas Jitpong 5-0 in the 52kg final.

Nikhat stamped her dominance by won four bouts before the final in the tournament by an identical 5-0 margin.

Sable breaks Kenyan Hegemony
Avinash Sable finally ended the Kenyan hegemony in the men's 3,000m steeplechase at the Commonwealth Games – the East African nation had monopolised the CWG podium since 1998 – to win a silver medal with a time of 8:11.20 at the Alexander Stadium. Sable, who has been on a national record-breaking spree since the Federation Cup in March 2019, bettered his best performance for the ninth time, improving on his 8:12.48 achieved at the Rabat Diamond League in June this year.

INBRIEF

Paris Saint-Germain's dismal form continues, loses to Bayern

Paris Saint-Germain's dismal form continued as it lost 1-0 at home to Bayern Munich on Tuesday in the first leg of their round-of-16 Champions League clash in Paris. A third straight loss made it five defeats in 11 games this year for PSG coach Christophe Galtier's team. Bayern winger Kingsley Coman volleyed home inside the penalty area from Alphonso Davies' left-wing cross in the 53rd minute.

The results: Paris Saint-Germain 0 lost to Bayern Munich 1 (Coman 53); AC Milan 1 (Diaz 7) bt Tottenham Hotspur 0.

Emphatic start to its campaign by Punjab

Punjab began its campaign in style with an emphatic, 13-0 win over Gujarat in the third Hockey India senior women's National hockey championship at the District Sports Authority Stadium, Kakinada, on Wednesday. In another match, Bengal recorded a solitary goal win over Uttar Pradesh.

Sabitra helps Nepal hold India in friendly

A late double by Nepal forward Sabitra Bhandari meant the India women's team had to settle for a 2-2 draw in a friendly game in Chennai on Wednesday.

Sabitra, who was a constant threat to the Indian defence, secured a hard-fought draw for her side in the injury time with a rasping run through the centre and a calm finish.

The result: India 2 (Soumya 56, Indumathi 68') drew with Nepal 2 (Sabitra 90-pen, 90+2).

Two extra days of racing framed at Hyderabad

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) have resolved to frame two extra race days, on February 22 and March 2, 2023 to be run during this Hyderabad Winter season.

West Bengal blanks UP to regain youth TT title

Top-seeded West Bengal, riding on Ankur Bhattacharjee's form, decimated second-seeded Uttar Pradesh 3-0 to regain the team trophy in the u-19 youth boys' final of the UTT 84th inter-State National youth and junior table tennis championships in Chennai on Wednesday.

The results (team events): Youth boys u-19: (final): West Bengal bt UP 3-0 (Ankur Bhattacharjee 11-4, 11-1, 11-9; Soumyadeep Sarkar bt Divyansh Srivastava 6-11, 11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7; Bodhisatwa Chaudhury bt Akshat Tyagi 11-3, 13-11, 11-4).

Santosh Trophy — Manipur thrashes West Bengal

Manipur thrashed West Bengal 4-1 in Group-B of the 76th Santosh Trophy National football championship in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. Manipur's star of the show was its captain Singam Subash Singh who scored a goal and had a hand in the team's other goals too.

The results (Group-B): Manipur 4 (Naoba Meitei 11, Subash Singh 37, Biswajit Hembrom 81-og, Naocha Singh 90+4) bt Bengal 1 (Souvik Kar 54); Services 1 (Christopher Kamei 21-p) drew with Delhi 1 (P.P. Shafeel 90+3-og); Meghalaya 0 drew with Railways 0.

LIVE TELECAST

New Zealand vs England: 1st Test, day 1, Prime Video, 6.30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

UAE vs Afghanistan: 1st T20I, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Bengal and Saurashtra to fight it out for national supremacy

Tiwary is keen to have a fairytale final by lifting the coveted crown while Unadkat is eager to replicate his team's feat of 2020

RANJI FINAL

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Bengal captain and Sports Minister Manoj Tiwary has stretched himself the extra yard and is keen to have a fairytale final by lifting the coveted Ranji Trophy at the iconic Eden Gardens, which last hosted a summit clash in 1990 and saw the host emerge as the champions.

Jaydev Unadkat, who led Saurashtra to beat Bengal at Rajkot three years ago for its maiden crown, is eager to replicate the feat of 2020 and has got released from the Indian Test squad to boost his side in a repeat of the title clash, starting here on Thursday, at his 'home away from home'.

The core has remained the same for both sides. While Bengal reached the semifinals last season and the final now, Saurashtra entered its second final in three seasons.

Consistent showing

Bengal has scored heavily, thanks to the consistent showing of Anustup Majumdar, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Sudip Gharami. Its bowlers, led by Akash Deep, Mukesh Kumar and Ishan Porel, have been disciplined.

Shahbaz Ahmed has been an asset. The all-rounder, who had fever on Tuesday, is available for selection. The hunt for opener Abhimanyu's partner may bring in Sumanto Gupta.

Tiwary, who has infused the pride of playing for Bengal in his teammates, has avoided using the word 'revenge' in the dressing room to keep the adrenalin in check.

Noting that the Saurashtra tailenders survived too long to hurt Bengal three years ago, Tiwary does not want a repeat of that.

Saurashtra, which is the current Vijay Hazare champion, has depth in batting, variety in bowling and ample self-confidence even without Test regulars Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravindra Jadeja. The team has pulled off some remarkable wins. Prolific scorers Arpit Vasavada, who led Saurashtra in some matches, Harvik Desai, Sheldon Jackson and all-rounder Chirag Jani have contributed significantly.

Even though spinners Dhramendra Jadeja and Yuvraj Dodiya have led Saurashtra's bowling chart, the team has some quality seamers, including Unadkat, Sakariya and Jani.

The pacers from both teams will enjoy themselves on a green track.

The Cricket Association of Bengal will open a few stands for the public to lift the ambience of the much-awaited contest.

The teams (from):

Bengal: Manoj Tiwary (Capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sudip Gharami, Anustup Majumdar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Sumanto Gupta, Abishek Porel (wk), Pradipta Pramanik, Ishan Porel, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Kazi Junaid Saifi, Geet Puri, Pritam Chakraborty, Akash Ghatak, Subhankar Bol, Durgesh Dubey, Karan Lal and Ankit Mishra.

Saurashtra: Jaydev Unadkat (Capt.), Sheldon Jackson, Prerak Mankad, Chirag Jani, Samarth Vyas, Arpit Vasavada, Harvik Desai (wk), Chetan Sakariya, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Snell Patel, Yuvraj Dodiya, Parth Bhut, Navneet Vora, Devang Karamta, Kushang Patel, Vishwarajsinh Jadeja and Jay Gohil.

Bonhomie: Skippers Unadkat and Tiwary exchange greetings at a training session. PTI

De Alboran stuns top seed Tseng

CHENNAI OPEN

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

American Nicolas Moreno De Alboran produced the biggest upset of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger 100 turnament when he defeated the top seed Chun-Hsin Tseng in straight sets 6-2, 6-4 in the second-round on Wednesday. Alboran played an attacking game, especially on the second serves of Tseng with his powerful forehand strokes.

De Alboran. R. RAGU

The results: Singles: Second round: Nicolas Moreno de Alboran (USA) bt Chun-Hsin Tseng (Tpe) 6-2, 6-4; Yasutaka Uchiyama (Jpn) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 6-1, 6-7, 6-4; Arthur Cazaux (Fra) bt Seong Chan Hong (Kor) 6-3, 6-4; Dane Sweeny (Aus) bt James McCabe (Aus) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: First round: Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) & Nicolas Moreno De Alboran (USA) 6-4, 7-5; Petr Nouza & Andrew Paulson (Cze) bt Marc Polmans/Max Purcell (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; JiSung Nam & MinKyu Song (Kor) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Vishnu Vardhan 1-6, 7-6, 10-5; Sebastian Ofner (Aut) & Nino Serdarusic (Cro) bt Dimitar Kuzmanov (Bul) & Hamad Medjedovic (Srb) 7-5, 6-4; Ryan Peniston (GBR) & Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & N Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-7, 6-1, 10-7; Sumit Nagal & Sasikumar Mukund bt Yu Hsiou Hsu (Tpe) & Christopher Rungkat (Ina) 7-6, 2-1 (retd.); Arjun Kadhe & Jay Clarke (GBR) bt Dayne Kelly & Dane Sweeny (Aus) 3-6, 6-3, 10-7; Francesco Maestrelli & Luca Nardi (Ita) bt Calum Puttergill & Akira Santillan (Aus) 6-2, 6-3.

Borg and Amritraj interact with kids at TNTA event

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

For kids pursuing a sport in their formative years, nothing can be more precious than interacting with the stars of the game. These interactions can be the spark that lights their ambitions to pursue it at the highest level.

If that star has a staggering 11 Grand Slam men's singles titles and is widely considered one of the greatest to have ever graced that game, it is doubly more special.

It is not every day one gets expert advice on the proper grip when you are volleying from the winner of six French Open and five Wimbledon titles.

For about 25 kids (almost equal number of boys and girls) in Chennai pursuing tennis, Wednesday will go down as one of the most memorable days of their lives as they got tennis lessons from the legendary Bjorn Borg, who was accompanied by Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj.

Rapt attention: Bjorn Borg gives tips to kids at the Chennai Open Challenger. R. RAGU

The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association organised the event in which a few clubs and academies were asked to send some of their most promising players for the special session.

For close to an hour, the legends observed and offered their wisdom to the boys and girls alternatively.

During the session, Borg said, "Only thing you have to think about is when you hit your ground strokes, (you have to be) like you are going to come into the net, but you are not going to come in. Keep your weight forward."

On the adjacent court, Amritraj taught the kids the proper technique while volleying: how close to the net one should be and how to meet the ball in their line of sight.

I want to help the next generation, says Sania

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

"I was a little surprised at being offered a mentorship role but I was really excited," said six- time tennis Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza, on being the mentor for RCB women's team in the WPL.

"I want to make young girls believe sport can be one of the first career choices for them.

"I want to help the next generation believe in themselves no matter how much the odds are against you, goals can be achieved," Sania said in a chat with *The Hindu*.

"The mental aspect of it is something I look forward to working with the younger girls," she said.

"I feel I can help to bring in the mental steadiness and the belief. I can talk of the experiences I've had over 20 years of playing," Sania said.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Nagal, Prajwal handed wildcards for Bengaluru Open Challenger

ATP Bengaluru Open Challenger has handed out singles wildcards to Sumit Nagal and local lad S.D. Prajwal Dev.

Nagal, currently ranked 506 in the world, was the champion in the Garden City back in 2017. Prajwal, who finished runner-up twice last year in ITF events, will be eager to make his mark on what will be his fourth appearance at the Challenger event.

New addition: Ashish Jha at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, after signing for Bengaluru FC.

Sumanth scores unbeaten 150

Sumanth Talasaila scored an unbeaten 150 as Vivekananda Union CC thrashed Royal CC, Chintamani by 142 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division league.

The scores:

Vivekananda Union 318/7 in 45 overs (Rajdeep Dey 31, Sumanth Talasila 150 n.o., Manjunath Yallappa 25, S. Rakesh Mehta 29 n.o., Arun Kumar Nair 4/37) bt Royal, Chintamani 176 in 35.3 overs (Arun 28, Jayakumar Murthy 38, S. Rakesh Mehta 5/28). Young Cricketers (2) 46 in 20.2 overs (G. Sujith 3/10) lost to Crescent (2) 47 for no loss in 7.3 overs (A.C. Varshith 25 n.o.). Gandhinagar Cricketers 210 in 42.4 overs (Bodugu Dileep Kumar 38, Krishna Bharadwa 59, Pradeep Thyagaiah 39, H.S. Pramoda 3/48) bt Modern Cricketers 137 in 41.1 overs (Harsha Suryaprakash 33, M. Mani Kumar 35, K. Krishna Kapil 4/28).

Kapali 301/9 in 50 overs (Ayush Ranjan 49, Rupak 53, Albin Mathew Philip 73, Mehwish Shafiq 29, T. Karthik 30 n.o., Ramurthy Muniswamy 3/54) bt Friends 94 in 22.5 overs (Riyaz Ahmed Kotabala 31, U.K. Akhil 5/33).

MES College 198 in 46.1 overs (G. Prateek Jain 59, Nagarjun Sharma 64, Suraj Hegde 5/38) lost to New National 199/2 in 22.4 overs (N. Sagar 99, S.K. Rahul 51 n.o.).

YMCA (1) 136 in 38 overs (S. Durga Prasad 57, Nikhil Aithal 3/19) lost to Sri Jayachamarajendra 139 for no loss in 11.2 overs (Pavan R. Sheshagiri 34 n.o., Shounak 85 n.o.).

Bangalore Dynamos 291/4 in 48 overs (P. Karthik 68, C.H. Kashish 112, G. Ravi 48) bt City Cricketers (2) 252/9 in 48 overs (Vinaykumar B. Yattinahalli 52, K.P. Surya 66, Varun Ramesh 36, Akash P. Maiya 34, Pranav R. Belur 3/64).

Brace by Surya

S. Surya Prakash scored a brace as Vehicles FC defeated CIL FC 6-1 in the BDFA B-division league on Wednesday.

The results:

Vehicles 6 (S. Surya Prakash 3, 44, Carlton Joel 20, M. Rohit 42, Murali 57, R. Naveen Kumar 65) bt CIL 1 (Md. Ameeruddin 28).

Bengaluru FC signs Ashish Jha

Bengaluru FC, on Tuesday, announced the signing of striker Ashish Jha on a deal that runs through to the end of the 2024-25 campaign. The 23-year-old most recently turned out for reigning BDFA Super Division League champion Sporting Club Bengaluru.

BFC pulls off impressive win over table-topper MCFC

ISL-9

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC (BFC) took a big step towards grabbing a playoff spot with an impressive 2-1 win over table-topper Mumbai City FC (MCFC) in their Indian Super League fixture here on Wednesday.

Second-half goals from Sunil Chhetri and Javi Hernandez gave BFC a seventh consecutive win. BFC (31 points) now sits fourth on the points table, with one game to go.

Mumbai City's hopes of staying unbeaten through the season went up in flames.

Chhetri, included in the starting eleven for the first time in seven matches, troubled the Mumbai City defence. He made three attempts on goal in the first half, before finally breaking through in the 57th minute.

Standing ovation

The Indian captain hit the target with a header off a corner kick, and ran towards the West Block Blues stand to celebrate. Chhetri, who got to play only because regular striker Roy Krishna is serving a suspension, received a standing ovation when he left the field in the 83rd minute.

On cloud nine: Bengaluru FC players celebrate their victory over Mumbai City FC. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

BFC added a second through an excellent run by Aleksandar Jovanovic. The Australian accelerated into the box, leaving his marker Sanjeev Stalin in the dust. Jovanovic then laid off the perfect pass for Javi Hernandez, who slotted it in from close range.

At this stage, BFC looked on course for an easy victory. But it was not quite straightforward, as Mumbai City struck back with a goal from captain Mourtada Fall.

The home team was then bombarded by attacks in the last 10 minutes, but managed to hold on.

Mumbai City FC missed a golden chance in the first half, when Bipin Singh had only BFC custodian Gurpreet Singh to beat. A clumsy left-footed effort from Bipin, however, did not trouble Gurpreet.

The result: BFC 2 (Chhetri 57, Javi 70) bt Mumbai City FC 1 (Mourtada 77).

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Government of Karnataka
Health And Family Welfare Department
Taluk General Hospital Alur, Hassan Dist-573213
E-mail: tlhalur01@gmail.com phone No.: 08170-218223
No:TGH/Alur/OS-tender/01/2022-23 Date:10/02/2023

: E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION:

Tender were invited through e-prucurement to provide man power service of 10 number of Group D & 7 number of Non-clinical Group D under outsource basis to Taluk General Hospital, Alur, Hassan District, with 100 beds. Tender registration can be submitted from 13/02/2023. Deadline for receipt of tender registration is 04:30 PM on 14/03/2023. More details will be available at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

sd/- Administrative Medical Officer Taluk General Hospital, Alur, Hassan Dist-573213

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸಸಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/1082/2022–23

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the property from its owner, B. Raghunanda, son of G Babu Rao, residing at No. 10/1, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018, the property is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called **"Schedule Property".**

ALL persons including an individual anybody under law, having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at No.115/58, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018 within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 52/8, (Old No. 167) PID No. 49-40-52/8, measuring East to West 30 Feet, North to South 28 Feet, measuring in all about 840 square feet, along with the common passage measuring East to West 03 Feet, and North to South 28 Feet, and a residential building comprising Ground Floor, First Floor, and Second Floor, constructed thereon, situated at K.P. Puttanna Chetty Road, behind Madhwa Sanga Building, 5th Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, and bounded as follows:

East by: Property belonged to R.V. Devaraj; **West by:** Property belonged to R.L. Sanjeevaraju Shetty; **North by:** Common Passage and Property belonged to R.L. Venkatasubbaiah Shetty; **South by:** Property belonged to late Raja Seetharamaiah Shetty.

Sd/- Madhusudhana H.R.
Advocate, No.115/58, 1st Floor,
2nd Main Road, 6th Cross,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018.
Phone: +91 98451 92477

Bangalore
Dated: 15.02.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **MRS.RENUKA SRIDHAR,** daughter of Mr.R.Lakshminarayanan, residing at No.F402, Mera Homes Apartments, Kadugodi-Hoskote Main Road, Near Shell Petrol Bunk, Seegehalli, Bengaluru 560 067, she having acquired title to the same by a Sale Deed dated 28.02.2018, registered as Document No.VRT-1-04854/2014-15 in Book I, stored in CD No.VRTD239 at the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Varthur, Bengaluru City District.

All persons/firms/companies/banks/financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing, to the undersigned at the below given address, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim, within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim, of any party, shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes, and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Residential Apartment **No.402, V.P Katha No.791/F402, Property ID No.150200401700521139** on the **4th Floor** of **Block F** in the building known as **"MERA HOMES"** having **1777 Sq.ft** of **SBA** with **ONE** covered car parking **Slot No.53** in the basement, together with **533 sq.ft** of **UDS** in the land bearing Sy.Nos.118/2, 132 and 133 (Seegehalli Village Panchayat Khatha No.791), measuring 5 acres 19.35 guntas equivalent to 2,38,872 sq.ft situated at **Seegehalli Village,** Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk which is bounded as follows:

East by : Road and remaining portion of Survey Nos.132, 133 and 134
West by : Property of Major Govinda Swamy in Survey No.118/3
North by : Property in Survey Nos.131 and 118/5
South by : Portion of Survey No.134 and Cart Track

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 15.02.2023

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H) PROJECTS CIRCLE,THANJAVUR

TENDER NOTICE
(ONLINE ONLY)

Short Tender Notice No.08/2022-23/ SDO /Dated: 07.02.2023.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Schedule Tender Under Two Cover System through online only,** will be received up to **28.02.2023**, **15.00 hours (Server Time)** by the **Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Thanjavur for 1 work under Railway Work Program** pertaining to **Thanjavur (H) Projects Division**.

Details of work, approximate value of work, The amount of EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **09.02.2023** onwards in the Government web site **http://tntenders.gov.in**. If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),A/c Project Circle,Thanjavur.

DIPR/1002/TENDER/2023

சோதனை கூட்டது சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

(1)No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-/9826-37 Dt:14.02.2023

Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/22-23/SS/WORK_INDENT10207/ CALL-2** for spare winding transportation, fixing, brazing and tanking with suitable gaskets and supply of insulation materials, miscellaneous materials at PDTR sub-division, KPTCL, Hubballi in supervision of KPTCL staff for repair of faulty 100MVA, 220/110/11kV class NGEF make power transformer Sl.No. 68000000087 failed at 220kV R/S Belagavi and presently lying at PDTR sub-division, KPTCL, Hubballi.

(2)No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-/9838-49 Dt:14.02.2023

BID ENQUIRY No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/ WORK_INDENT 9635/CALL-5** Tender for the work of Transportation (To & Fro), repair of sick power transformer and testing, assembling, erection and commissioning of repaired power transformer of rating 20 MVA, 110/33-11 KV class, SPEC-MAKE, Sl.No. 42896, year of manufacture-2011 power transformer failed at 110KV S/S M K Hubli in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Belagavi and lying at SRS Hubballi on Total Turnkey basis on percentage tender basis.

(3)No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-/9850-61 Dt:14.02.2023

BID ENQUIRY No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_ INDENT 9704/CALL-2** Tender for the work of repair and reconditioning of 20MVAR, 123kV Capacitor Bank at 110kV Sub-station, Gokak in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Belagavi.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the **"E-procurement"** mode can be obtained by logging on to E-procurement's website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in" on or after 4.00 p.m. on 15.02.2023**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Phone: 0831-2950835/2950836

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ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಎಲ್/ಕೋಟೇಶನ್/2022–23/1111 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–02–2023

ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಪೂರ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ನಂತರದ ಫೋಟೊ ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ 15 ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ದೃಶ್ಯ ಚಿತ್ರೀಕರಣ (Photos, Google Images, Video Record etc,) ಮಾಡಲು ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (Agency) ಯವರಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತೆರಿಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ದರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಚ್ಚೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (Agency) ಯವರು ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.02.2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl No:01:Particulars:Preparation & Providing 15 min Duration Video including , Photos, Videos & Aerial view by DRON 4K/HD recording of all works as directed by Belagavi Smart City Ltd. ,Rate: -, Amount: -

ಸಹಿ/–ಉಪ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1753/MCA/2022-23

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bangalore-560064.

No: BBMP/EE/YNK.D/E-PMT/17/2022-23 Date: 15.02.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover system) (Short term-Tender Notification) (Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer Yelahanka Division invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Est. Cost in Lakhs	EMD in Lakhs
	2nd Call		
1.	Removal of debris at various places of Attur wards No. 04 of Yelahanka Satellite town sub division. **Category:** Others	10.00	25000/-
2.	Removing debris and waste materials in ward No. 05 Yelahanka New Town Sub Division. **Category:** Others	20.00	50000/-
	3rd Call		
3.	Improvements and repairs to library building at Yelahanka 4th phase in Someshwara ward no - 03 of Yelahanka Satellite town sub division. **Category:** Others	10.00	25000/-

Calendar of events: 1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 27-02-2023 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. 2) Date of Opening of bids on 28.02.2023 after 16:00 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division

ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Indian Bank ಅಲಹಾಬಾದ್ ALLAHABAD
Zonal Office, 4th Floor, East Wing
Raheja Towers, No.26, 27 M G Road
BANGALORE – 560 001
PH: 080-22958899

Notice Inviting Offers

Indian Bank, Zonal Office, Bangalore invites sealed offers from owners willing to offer on lease basis office premises, measuring 1200 sq.ft for branch premises and 80-100 sq.ft for ATM preferably in Ground Floor, for opening of branch with ATM facility in the following locations / Center.

1. **Electronic City Phase-2**
2. **Mahadevapura**
3. **Manyata Business Park**
4. **Marathahalli**
5. **Sarjapur Road**
6. **SSI Peenya Stage -2**
7. **Whitefield**
8. **Kolar**

For eligibility criteria, application form, and other details, please refer to website http://www.indianbank.in/tender.php
Last date : 03.03.2023.

Sd/- ZONAL MANAGER

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Chennamanakere, Vidyapeeta BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru.

No.EE/BG/e-Proc/22/2022-23 Date: 15-02-2023

INVITATION FOR SHOT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (CALL-2)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Package	Amount put to (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Improvements and Maintenance of Drains in Srinivasanagara, Ward No. 212.	51.00	1,02,000/-
2.	Improvements and Repairs to BBMP Buildings and Tailoring Hall, Indira Canteen Pathway and Toilets in Basavanagudi, Ward No.210.	51.00	1,02,000/-
3.	Providing Name Boards and Stickering to existing Street Name Boards and Depot. Collection and engaging Gangman in Srinagara, Ward No.213.	51.00	1,02,000/-
4.	Maintenance of CC Roads & Providing New Street Name Boards & Stickering to Existing Name Board in Vidyapeeta, Ward No.216.	51.00	1,02,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents maybe downloaded from the e-procurement portal from: **20-02-2023. (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on : **01-03-2023 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Pre-Bid Meeting on **22-02-2023 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer-South, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011. **(4)** Opening of Technical document on : **03-03-2023 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** Financial bid Opening on : **06-03-2023 at 4:00 p.m. (6)** Corrigendum/ Addendum/any other clarification will be published in e-Procurement Portal only. **(7)** This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP website: www.bbmp.gov.in. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BBMP.

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